

ナ チ ュ ラ ル  
**NATURAL**

成田美名子

11





花とゆめ  
COMICS

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**NATURAL**

成田美名子

11

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**NATURAL**  
〔11〕

成田美名子

白泉社

●成田美名子の本

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ALEXANDRITE 全7巻

NATURAL 全11巻

—イラスト集・書籍—

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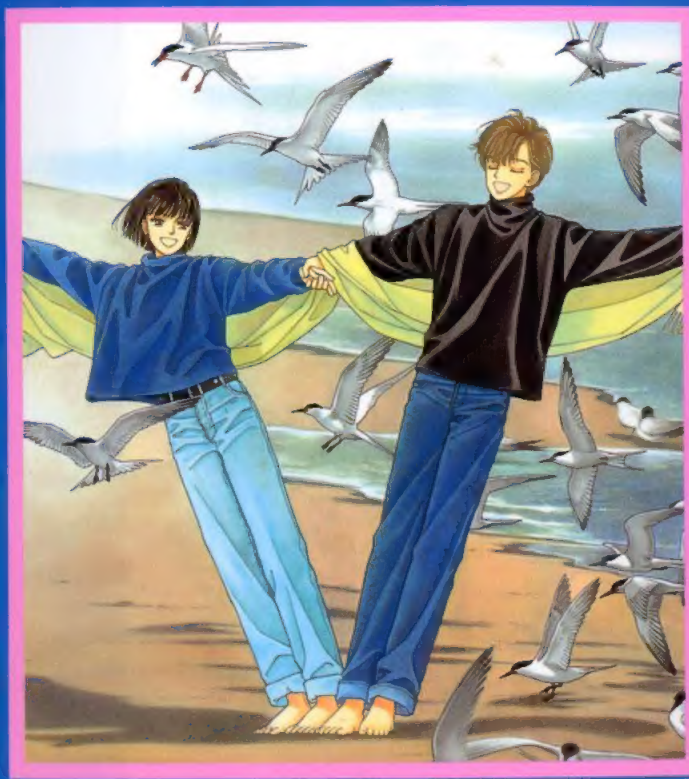
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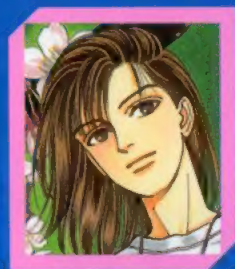
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## 花とゆめCOMICS

## ▶収録作品◀

警察や西門達の手を借りず、1人でファビアンに会いに行ったミカエル。過去のわだかまりを越えて向き合おうとする彼に、ファビアンは——!? 西門と能楽師の彼の兄・憲人の外伝「花よりも花の如く」天の響」収録の最終巻!!

■LaLa他掲載■

白泉社



## 作品かいせつ

警察や西門達の手を借りず、1人でファビアンに会いに向かったミカエル。過去のわだかまりを越えて向き合おうとする彼に、ファビアンはどう応えるのか!? そして彼らを探す西門達が目にしたのは……!! 西門と能の世界に生きる彼の実兄・憲人の外伝2編も収録の最終巻。

花とゆめCOMICS

ナ チ ュ ラ ル

# NATURAL

第11巻

成田美名子



Natural side story - Be more like a  
flower than an flower

Natural side story - The echo of the sky

Please take me to Noh theater play (Masque)



■ 目次

N A T U R A L

II

F I N A L S C E N E

E i n o u e r l e n e

N A T U R A L

花よりも花の如く

..... 5

N A T U R A L

天の響

..... 102

私をお能につれてって

..... 209

この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・  
団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。



# *Natural*

ナ チ ュ ラ ル

FINAL SCENE

El nino〜エルニーニョ〜



I'm  
sorry  
...

I actually  
sent him  
another  
email...

I'm going to  
meet Fabian...

Alone.

What  
are you  
talking  
about,  
Sanno-  
maru?!

We're  
meeting him  
tomorrow!!

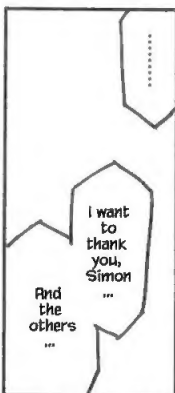
I changed  
the place  
and the  
date to  
today—

He said  
'okay'.

Entiendo.

When I  
asked him,

So that  
we  
could  
meet  
alone.







I haven't forgotten.

Then what is this? Is it about 'The market stays open even during wartime'??

Do you not know fear?

But it's not about that.

Thinking what might happen to me...

My face is trembling and my knees are shaking...

I am afraid—

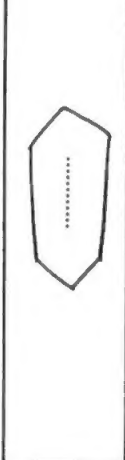


That is... terrifying...





Where  
are you  
now??



.....



Then,

Come  
back  
!

Don't  
go!  
Sanno-  
maru...



Take care  
of Riko,  
please...


Thank you,  
Simon.



Sanno-  
maru!


Say  
something  
!!!





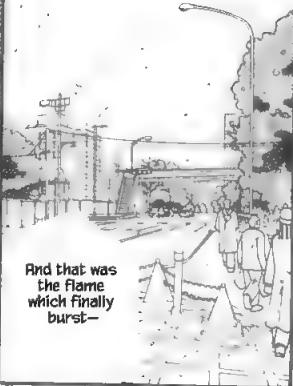
I used to say  
'my home was  
happy'...

But outside  
my house,




There were no  
good jobs, and  
kids who couldn't  
attend school.

Even if I tried, I didn't think  
I could be comfortable there...



And that was  
the flame  
which finally  
burst—



The spark  
which  
had been  
sealed away  
for so  
long...



My weak  
heart...

He is  
the  
jealousy  
inside  
of me—

Contempt...

Anger...

It's like  
Pandora's  
box.

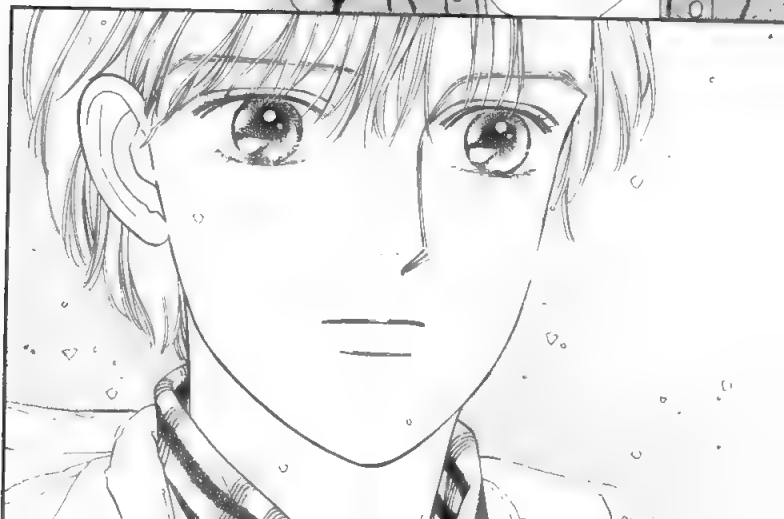
What was  
that final  
thing left  
in the  
box...?







I never imagined—  
I would feel this  
way when I met him:



He's lovely...





He went to  
meet  
Fabian??

Mi-  
Michael??



...  
This?



After quickly  
changing  
his clothes,  
he left for the  
restroom 15 or  
20 minutes  
ago...

Simon,  
what  
about  
that  
cell-  
phone?



Now  
?!  
Why?



Sannomaru  
has my  
cellphone, so  
you can  
call him.

Not  
that.

Ah!

We'll  
discuss  
that later!  
When did  
he leave?

Wasn't it  
supposed to  
be tomorrow  
?



Riko!?



Ring



Hello  
?



Is  
Sannomaru  
with  
you?!

Why  
is it  
Riko??

What  
??  
Riko  
?!  
What  
happened  
??



When  
I was  
being  
followed  
by a  
strange  
man.

Michael  
gave me  
this phone a  
while ago...

No...







You  
saw  
dark-  
ness?

In a  
prophetic  
dream?



Simon,  
what  
about  
Michael?

Riko  
?

What is  
it, Riko?!

Did  
something  
happen  
to him?!

Now  
this...

What  
is it?!



It felt as  
if someone  
had painted  
over it  
in black  
ink, erasing  
it...

There  
was an  
image  
there,  
but...

More  
accurately  
speaking,  
it  
wasn't  
dark-  
ness...



Riko  
?



Calm  
down  
and  
try to  
remem-  
ber.

Can  
you see  
any-  
thing?

What  
is the  
image?



I don't  
know!!



I'm  
sorry!

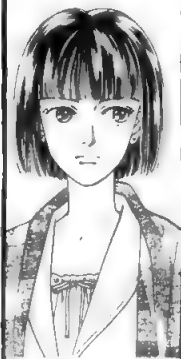
I  
can't  
...



Okay.

Don't  
worry...  
We'll  
find him.

When she first returned to Japan from overseas, Riko was probably bullied...



Hello!  
This is the final volume of *Natural*, at last. It's been a long journey~ (I'm no longer tired, and I feel refreshed). In this book, there are several side stories, including "The Echo of the Sky". For the first time, I am showing them here. If you read the magazines, you already know what's been added. I was able to make space for Riko as the main character, but when it was in the magazine, I didn't have room to add more pages. Instead of taking them out, I added more episodes like this. Ha~ It was hard...



Got it!

Let's split up!

Check in with me regularly.

I'll go too, Simon!



Please stay here and watch the bags.

I promise I'll call if I find something!



Riko, you worry a lot... Aren't you the one who believes bad things don't happen?

Am I...

Just running  
from bad things?

地下鉄  
SUBWAY  
町古神宮前駅  
May, Jingoshi Mae

What  
about  
the  
sub-  
way?

Osa-  
wa's  
there.

He's  
not at  
JR  
station.





I can't see bad things ...



A darkness which looked as if it had been covered by black ink...





What?  
?



Simon,  
I'm  
sorry

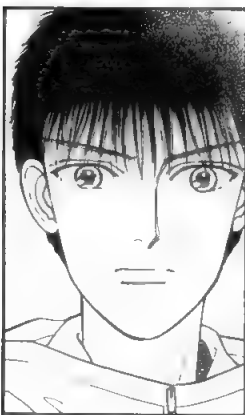
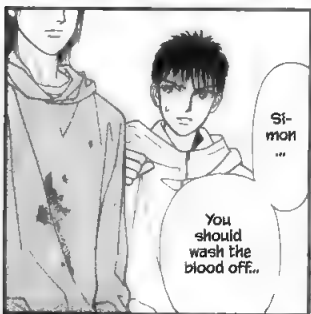
Please  
call an  
ambu-  
lance...



Slide









**This is dangerous!**

And he's  
bleeding...

For the first time,  
I understood  
what it was like  
to be stabbed...

If his organs  
are too  
damaged, they'll  
be removed...

That feeling...

I now  
under-  
stand...

Before Sannomaru's  
family arrived,  
Simon listened to the  
doctor's explanation,

And he consented  
to the surgery.

Sannomaru  
walked a bit,  
so he could  
have bled  
a lot...



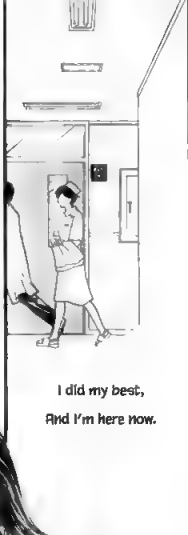
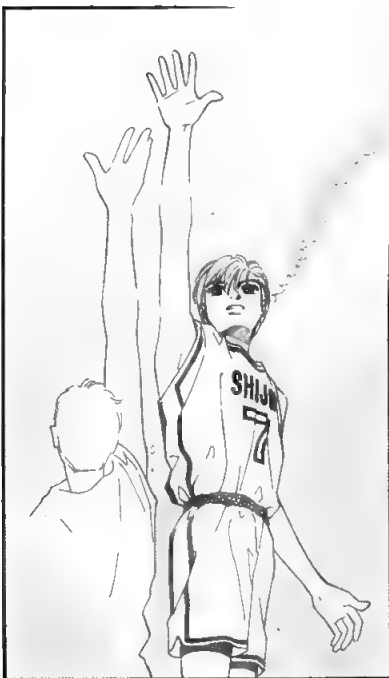


That I'm worried about.

I trust him,



And now it's become my problem too.



I did my best,  
And I'm here now.



But  
he lost  
a lot  
of  
blood.

His organs  
are not  
seriously  
damaged,

It is not  
over yet.



Our  
efforts to  
reach  
the top...







That's why  
you kept this  
from me  
for so  
long...

You knew...

How weak  
I am.





When we're  
together  
like this,

We can  
overcome  
anything...

Beep

Beep

Beep



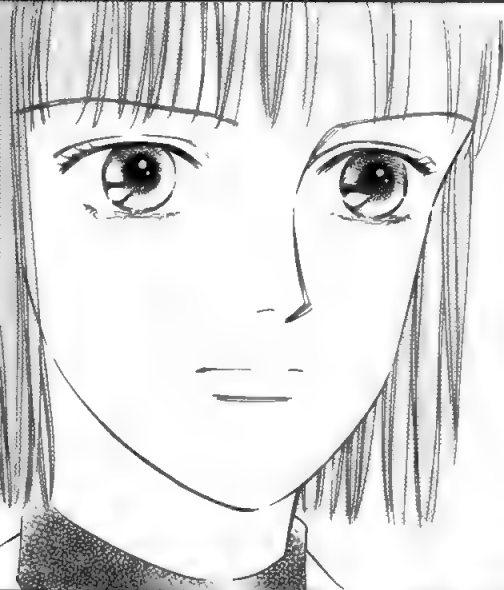
Beep

Whoosh

He went to  
survive.

He didn't  
go alone  
thinking  
that it  
was okay  
for him  
to die—





He's  
fighting  
to live  
even  
now...



Against an  
unchangeable  
future.



There is no  
such thing  
as an  
unchangeable  
future.

Fabian  
?!





What  
??

I  
stab-  
bed

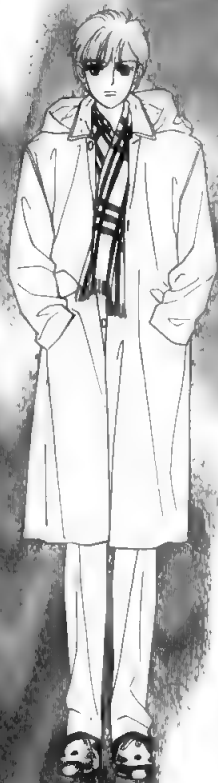
him...



.....  
Fabian  
!?

What  
hap-  
pened?!  
What's  
this  
blood?!

Are you  
hurt??

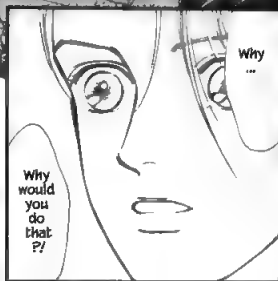


Why would he...  
Say that?

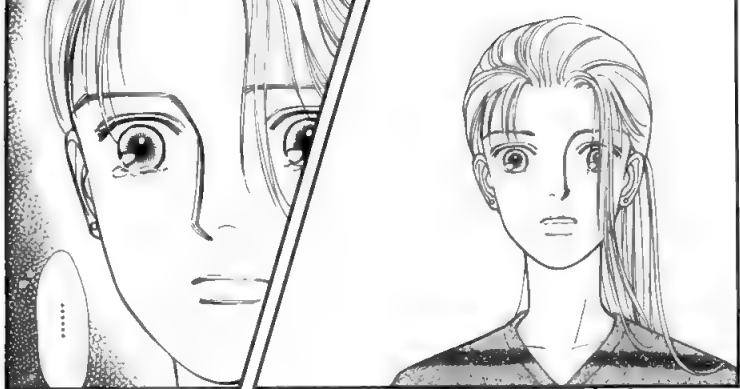


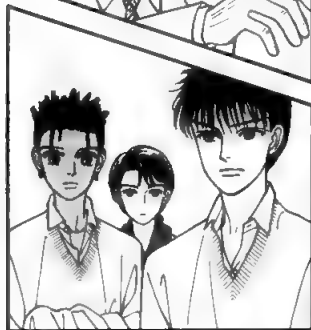
He's the  
only one  
who has  
hurt me.

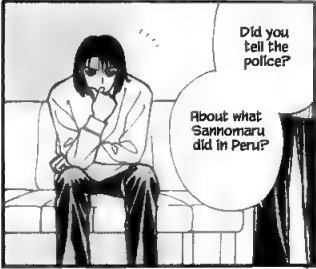
And now  
he's  
the one  
who was  
hurt  
by me...

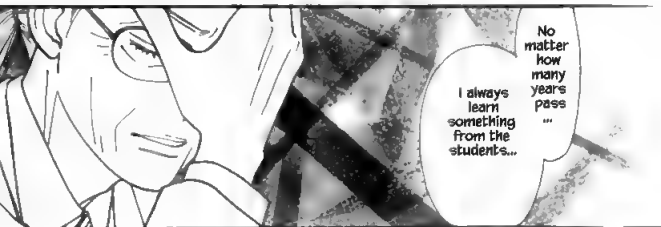














Have faith!

He's going to be fine.

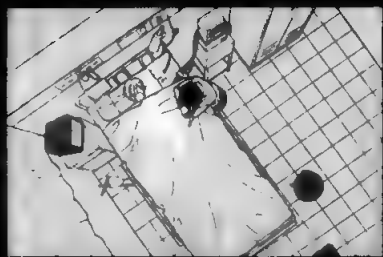


Don't give up—as long as there's even a chance,



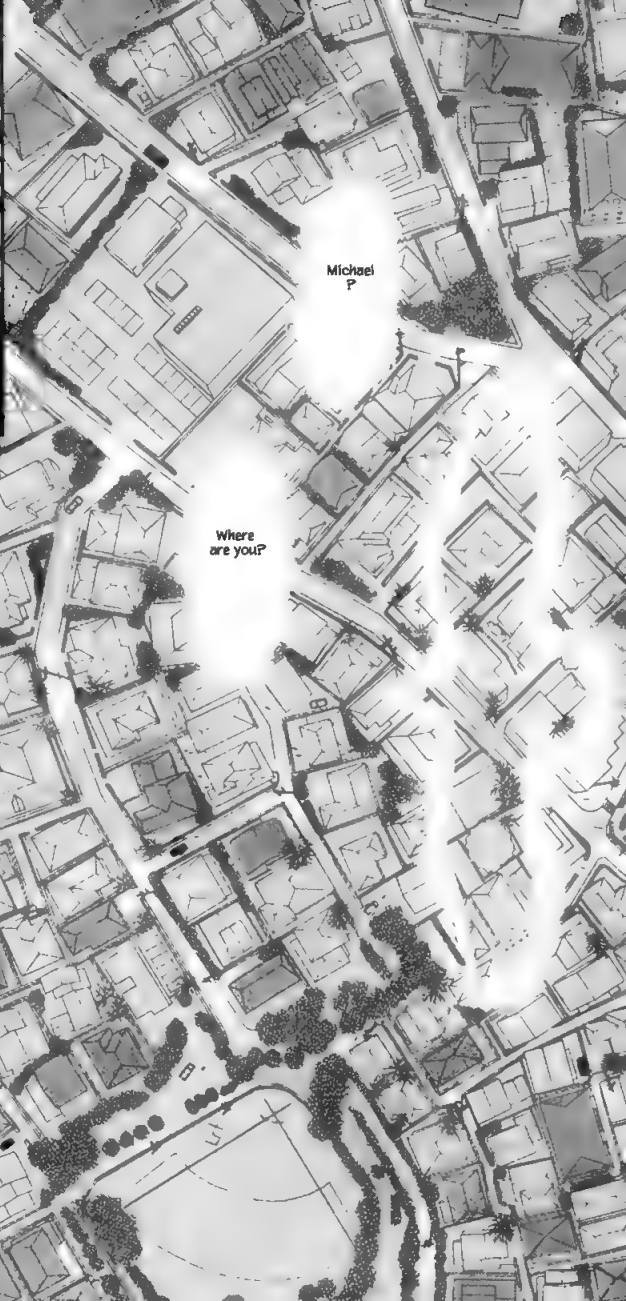
You'll definitely see him again!!







Michael!



Michael  
P

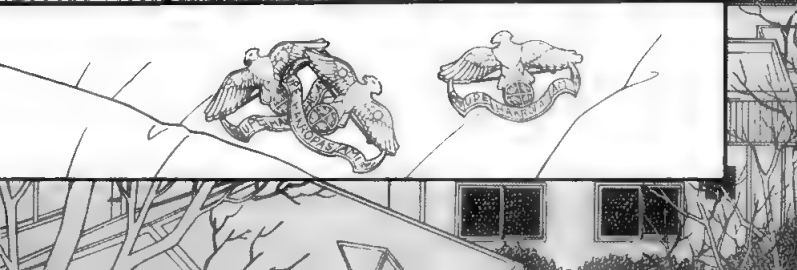
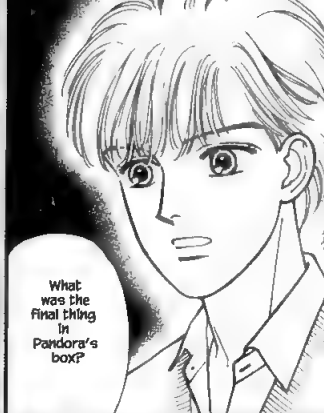
Where  
are you?

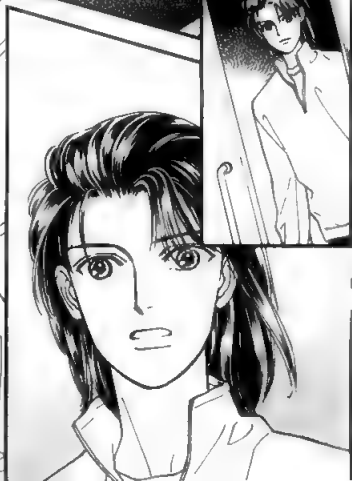


Nobody  
else is  
here  
right  
now.

There  
you are!

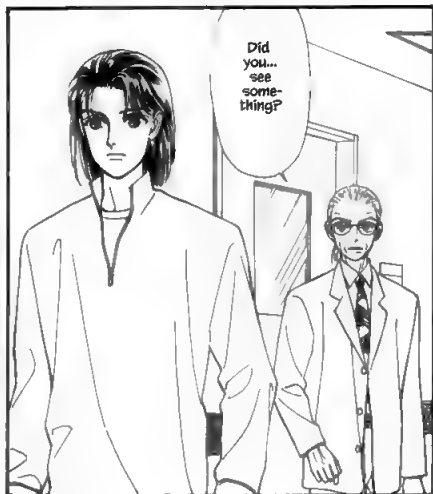
Riko





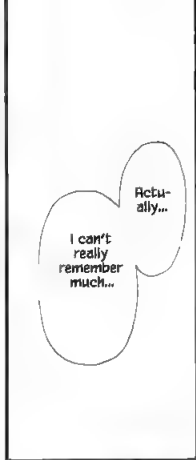














And I was  
so happy...



I saw  
him as  
someone  
precious.

And I was  
moved  
by life  
itself...



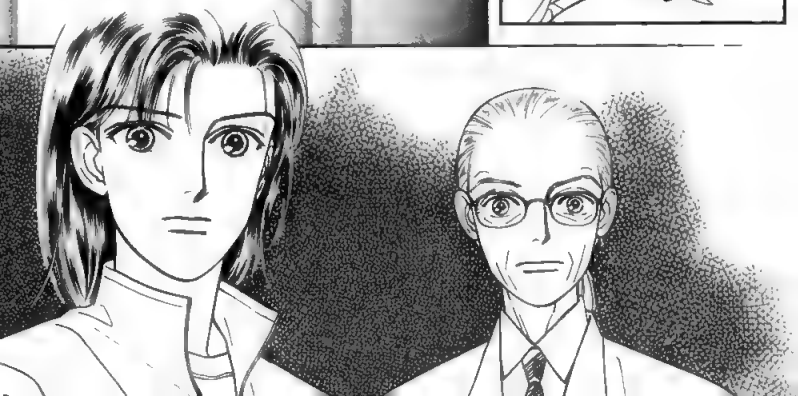
Because  
he's  
alive?

You  
already  
knew  
that  
though  
...



Rather  
than  
'happy'...  
it was  
more  
like...

Then  
I'll  
correct  
myself  
—





This  
might  
sound  
strange,

But it  
was like  
seeing a  
newborn...



Yes.

Even  
knowing  
that  
he led  
your  
father  
into  
that  
trap?

About  
him?

I felt this  
unconditional  
love for  
him.



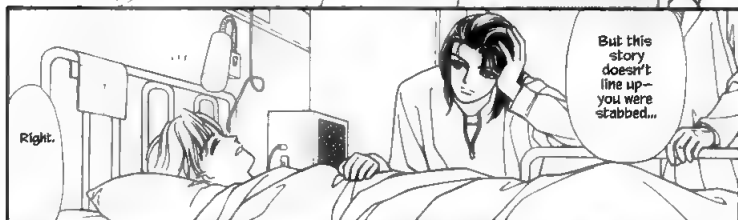
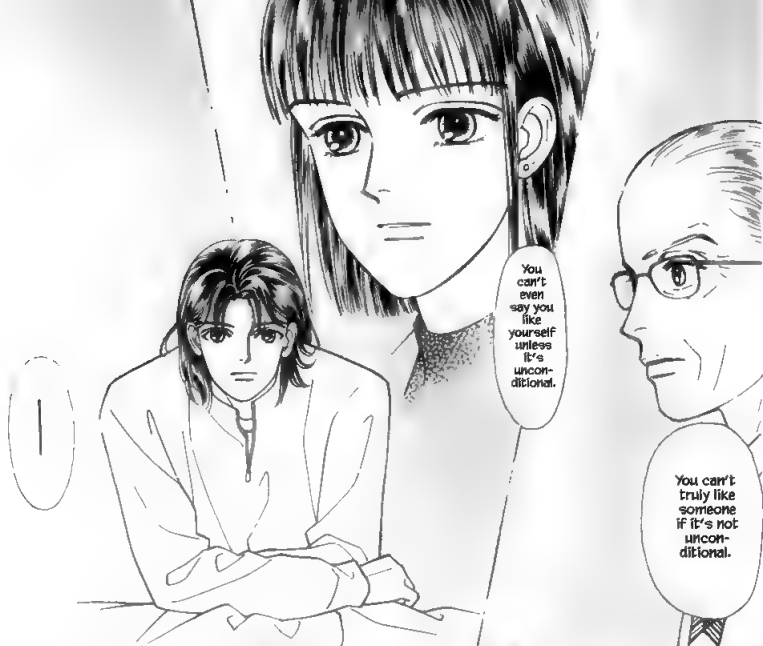
That  
wasn't  
even  
on my  
mind  
at that  
moment  
...

I wonder...is  
this what it  
means to like  
someone?



"Thank  
God!"—is  
what I  
thought...

He was  
so lovely...  
I could've  
cried.





I don't  
know  
where  
he is,

But he knows  
everything.



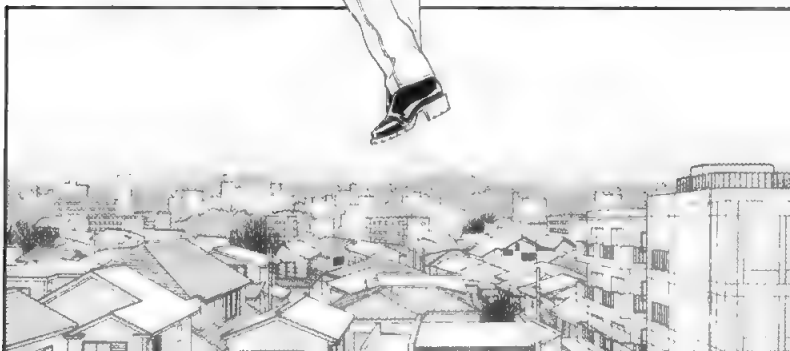
If things had  
played out  
like I saw  
in my vision, he  
would be dead.

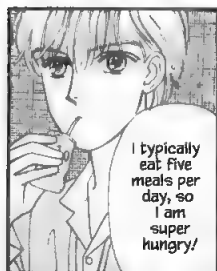
Maybe it was all  
wrong from  
the start...



Or  
maybe  
Sanno-  
maru...

Was chosen  
by god.





Even after I was serious last month, what was all that?

He's  
going to the  
match?? Is  
he insane?!

One  
more bowl!

I have  
to  
recover  
quickly -  
The  
Kanto  
tour-  
nament  
is this  
weekend.

He went  
to the  
restroom  
2 floors  
down.

Is this real?!

Puts hand on him.

I saw  
on a  
special  
show  
that...

If you  
do  
this,  
you'll  
heal!

Tom-  
row,  
I'm  
going to  
the  
restroom  
one floor  
below!

Goal.

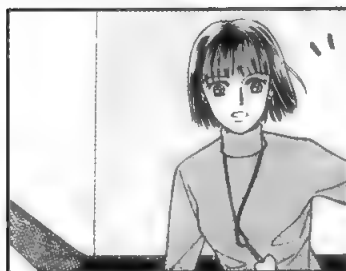
Ouch

1998

2

						1	2	3
X	X	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		

Kanto  
Tour-  
nament.







Huh?



Since we  
have been  
given these  
bodies, we  
must take  
care of them  
and properly  
use them...



As I  
thou-  
ght...



But let's  
aim for  
the top at the  
Kanto  
tournament  
next year!!

It'll be  
difficult  
to play in  
the rookie  
tournament  
right now,



Michael,

You  
need to  
focus on  
recovering!

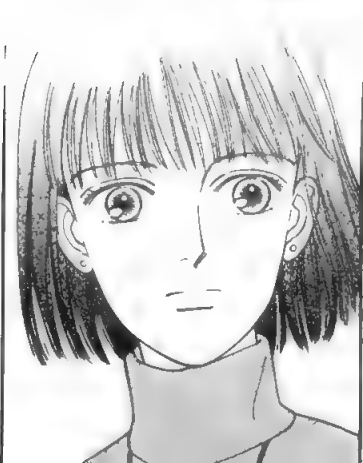
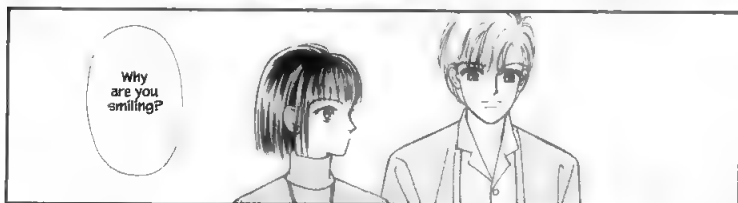
Why...  
why?



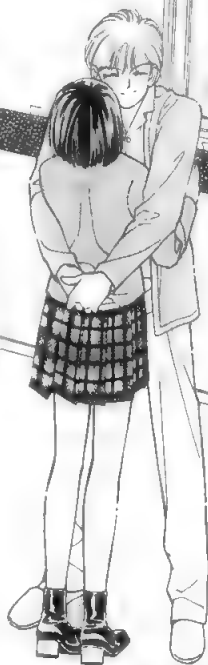
She didn't  
catch on...

Don't  
worry,  
you can  
do it!

She's  
talking  
about  
basket-  
ball...



... Yeah.

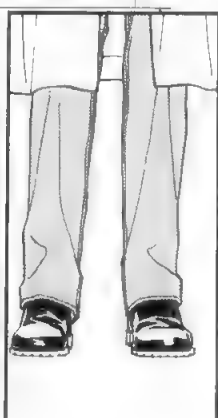
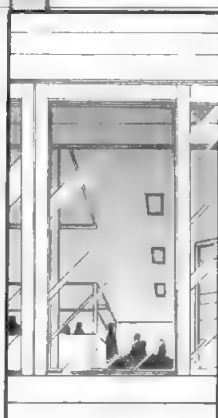
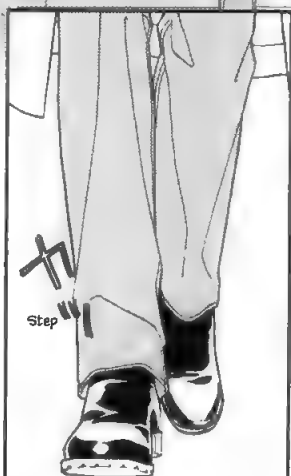


1996

2

日	月	火	水	木	金	土
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

Kanto  
tour-  
nament.





Santo-  
maru?  
He's  
over  
there.

Today's  
special  
is from  
5:25 p.m.

To da-



ギ  
ハ

Flinch



Clack

ギ  
ハ





Please  
give  
me some  
time!

He came  
even when he  
knew that he  
could be  
caught!

Can't you wait to  
report him until  
after you hear  
his reasoning?

Why are you  
stopping me,  
Sannomaru?!



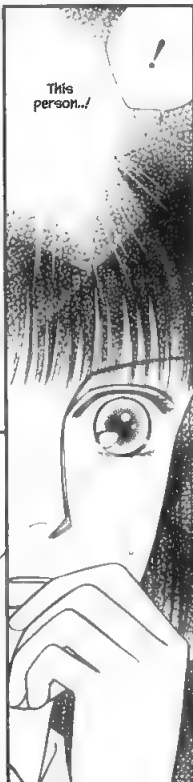
He  
doesn't  
have a  
weapon  
...



This  
person...!



You  
always have  
people around  
you.











I  
tricked  
your  
father.

It  
was just  
as you  
thought—



For the  
first  
time, I felt  
that I was  
truly alive.

You  
didn't  
suppress  
anything.

Maybe I  
wanted to  
be you...

It's  
difficult  
...  
To  
explain  
...



When  
you  
shot  
the gun  
at me, I  
hated  
you.

But I  
was  
also  
satis-  
fied...

I knew  
that  
you  
meant  
it.

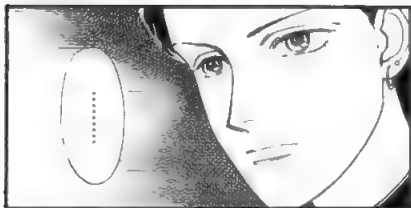


To be  
acknowledged...

Ask a question...  
To express himself..

Perhaps, he  
attacked  
him to...





'Don't stab him! Talk to him.'

If you're unsure, go and ask him.'



The woman I live with said the same thing...



Why did you say that then?



But what I did was wrong.

You should have talked things through like this from the start.

Fabian, you too—



When we first met...

It snowed,





Remind  
me what  
happened.

I don't  
remember  
it well...



I was  
planning  
on  
using my  
knife to  
under-  
stand  
what  
you truly  
meant.

When we  
met  
again,

By the  
email you  
sent.

I was  
unsure  
what you  
meant...



Fa...!

Rah!

Hush!  
Hush!

Rh!



Can  
we eat  
all of  
this?

Haha  
!



Stopped  
for a  
moment in  
front of me.

You...

And you  
hugged  
me...

As  
if you  
were  
truly  
happy  
...

'I don't want  
to live like this.'

'I finally  
met with  
you!'

But  
you...

Sho-  
cked  
...

I was  
...

So I  
stabbed  
you.



Rah  
...

Yes  
...

Right,  
I did.

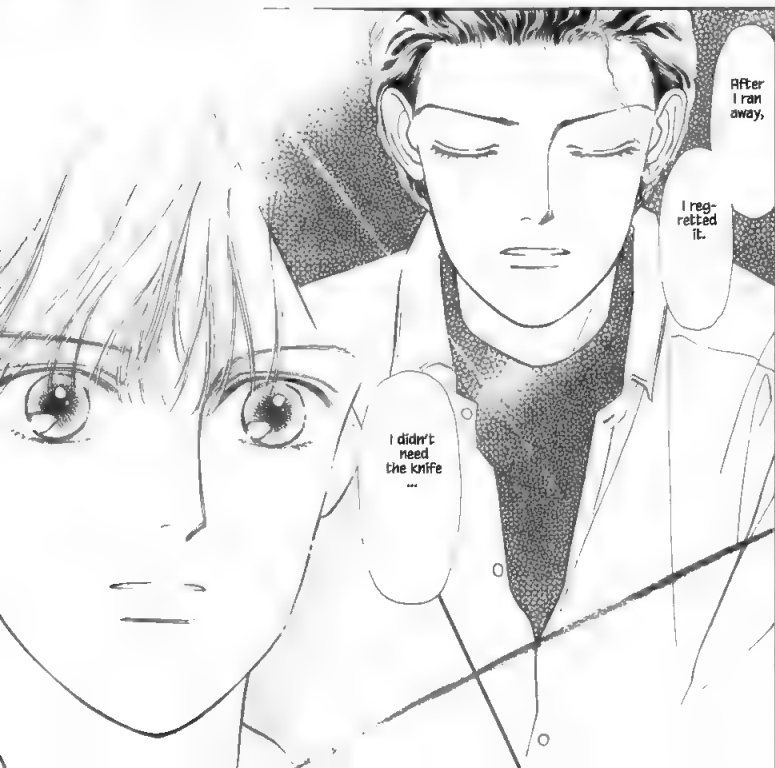


!?



'Let's  
go  
back'  
...

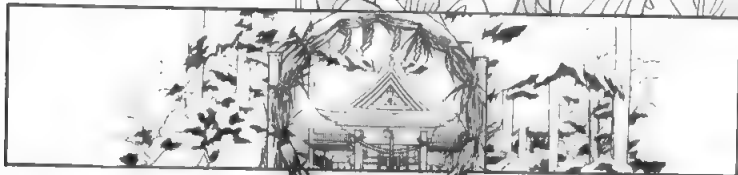
That's  
what  
you  
said.



After  
I ran  
away,

I reg-  
retted  
it.

I didn't  
need  
the knife  
...





To return  
to childhood,  
Before everything  
happened...

To the  
time we  
were newly  
born.

Let's  
talk—

From  
the  
begin-  
ning.







Not about a prophecy or anything...

I'm just talking about my feelings,



Yes?

Grand-father

Even though I've been a priest for a year ...



Does this mean...

I am human too?



And the people listening ...

They are also human...



About the fear of dying... and of grudges and sadness ...

About love for the people around me...



'A chick is born'...

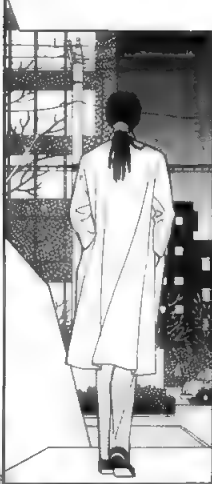
I see...





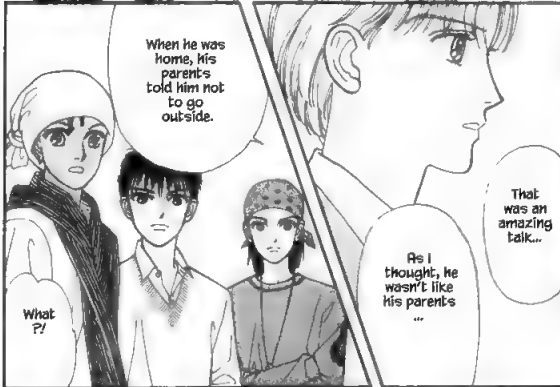
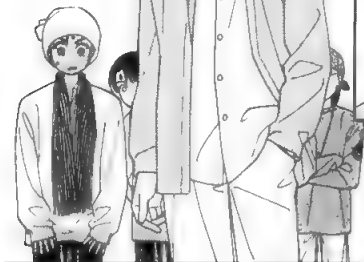
1

Is he leaving?  
Can you  
let him go?



Quena  
wides

hasta  
luego



When he was  
home, his  
parents  
told him not  
to go  
outside.

That  
was an  
amazing  
talk...

As I  
thought, he  
wasn't like  
his parents  
...

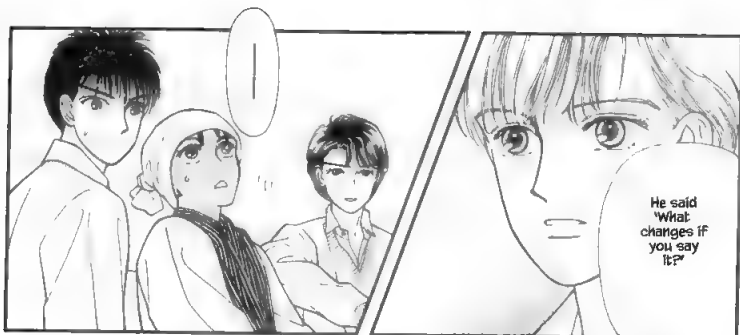
What  
?!



His  
parents  
didn't  
talk  
to him  
much...

Even  
though  
they fed  
him,







What???

No.

Did you ask him to turn himself in?

YOU!?

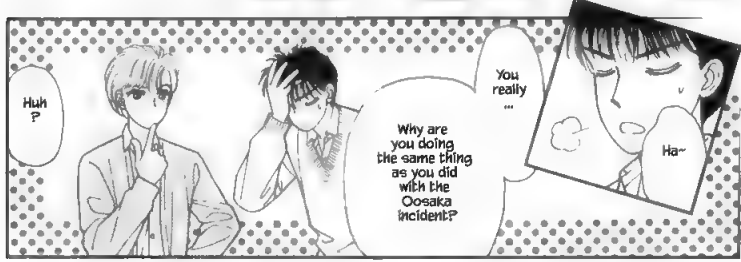


The rest, I left for him to decide.

He is going him to discuss it with someone who cares for him deeply.

I warned him that it'd be difficult to run away,

And that it'd be easier to give himself up.



Huh?

You really ...

Why are you doing the same thing as you did with the Osaka incident?

Ha~





Didn't you talk about it before?

I feel like that too...



'Hope.'

What ~~was~~ the last thing remaining in Pandora's box?

Riko.



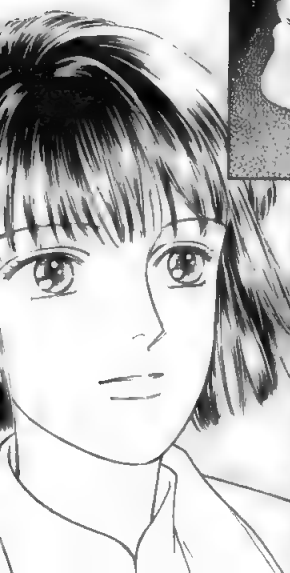
What?



Sleep well!

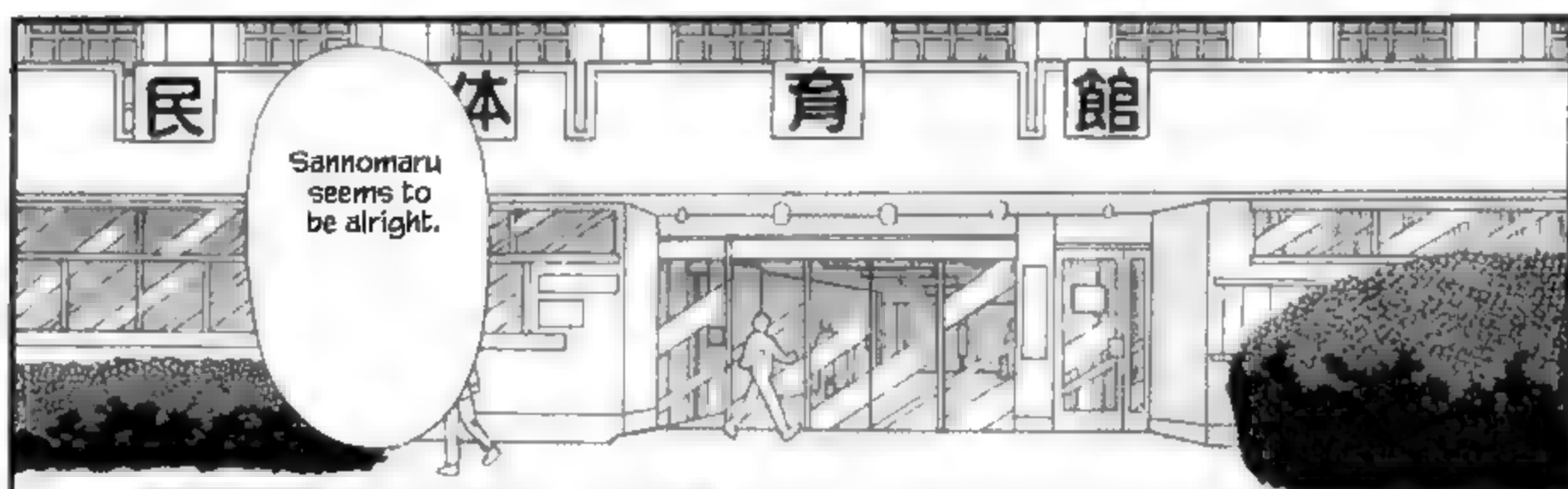
Then we're going...

Wow~/  
There  
are so  
many  
stars!









Wife.

I'll be  
staying in  
Tokyo for a  
while longer!

I am  
sorry,  
Suu!

Hello,

The  
whole  
family's  
here!

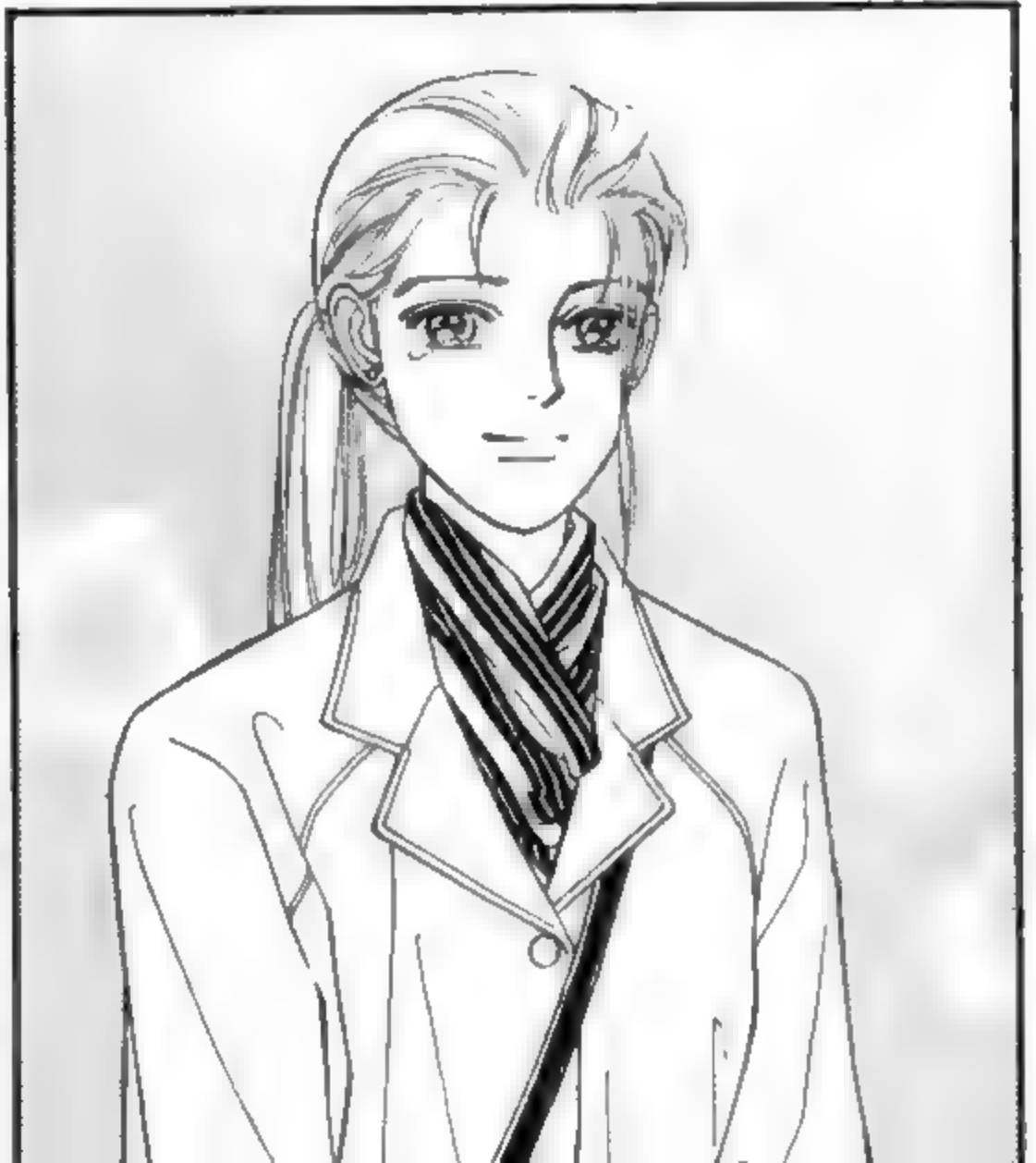
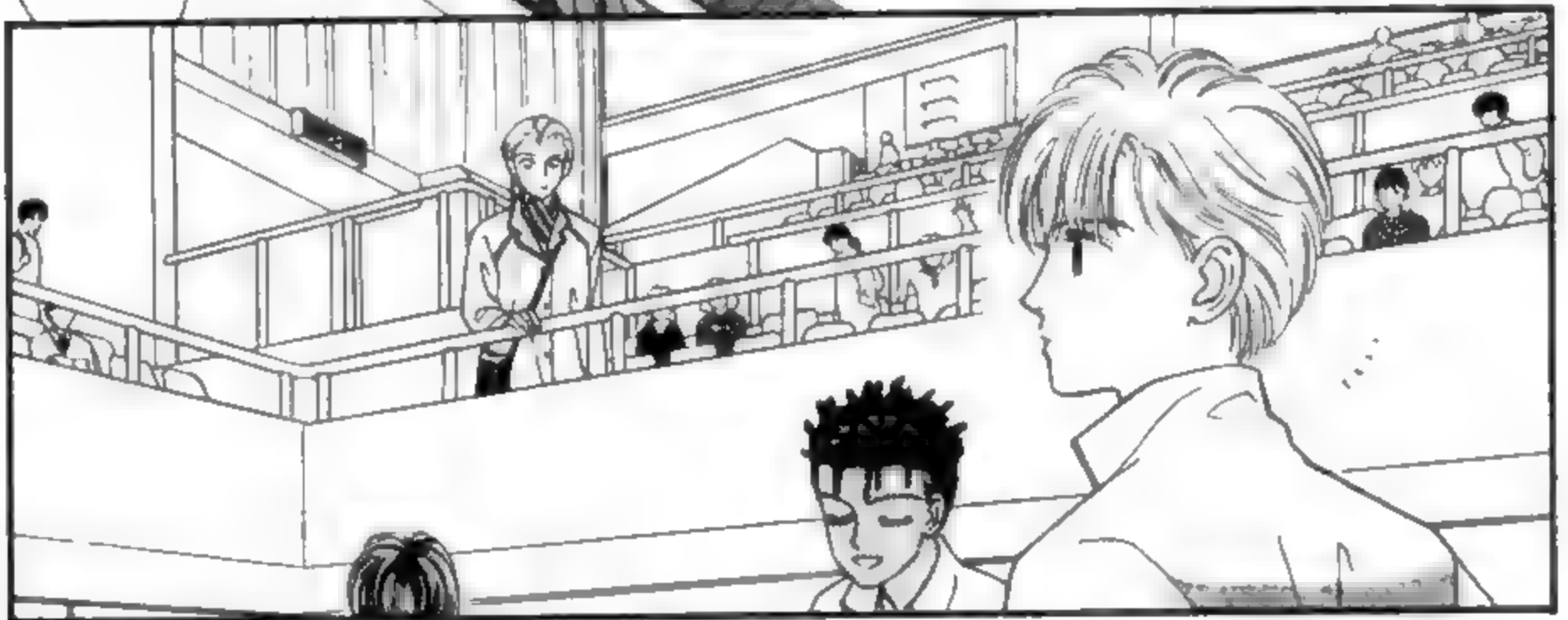
Chatter

Simon

I've  
been  
meaning  
to ask  
you...

What  
kind of  
household  
is  
Sarinomaru  
from?

\*Proofreader note: Simon is asking  
about Sarinomaru's Peruvian household.











A long time ago, unmarried priestesses would adopt a child.

The priestess is the bride of a god...



After she married, her husband would move into her parents' home with her as their son-in-law.



Maybe



You said that you are only going to pass the ball.

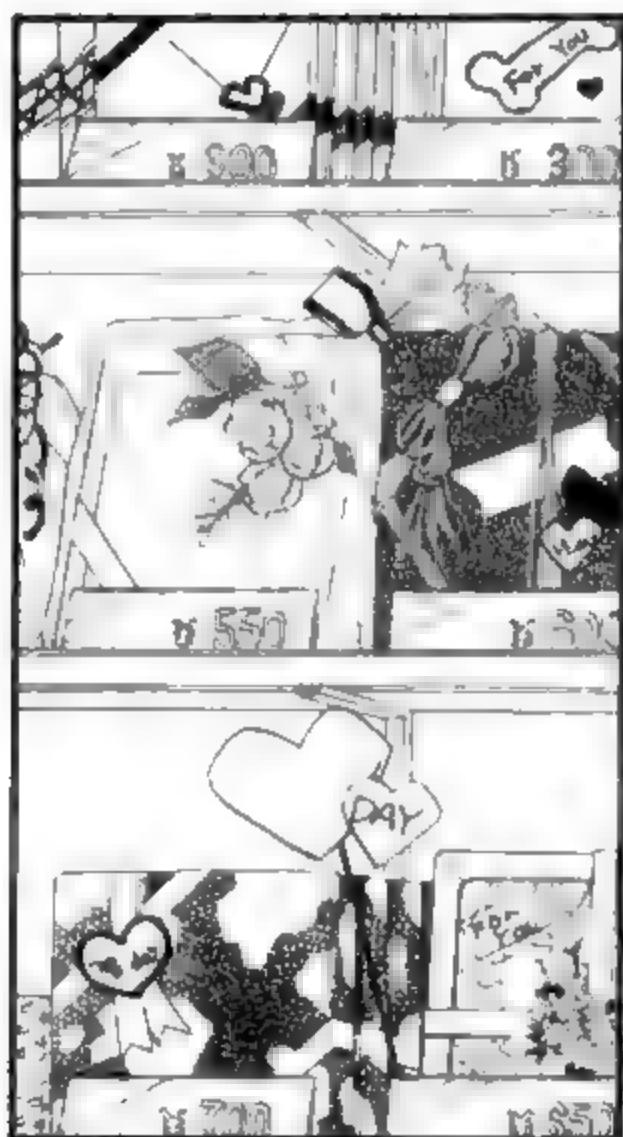
Surprisingly, He played in the tournament!

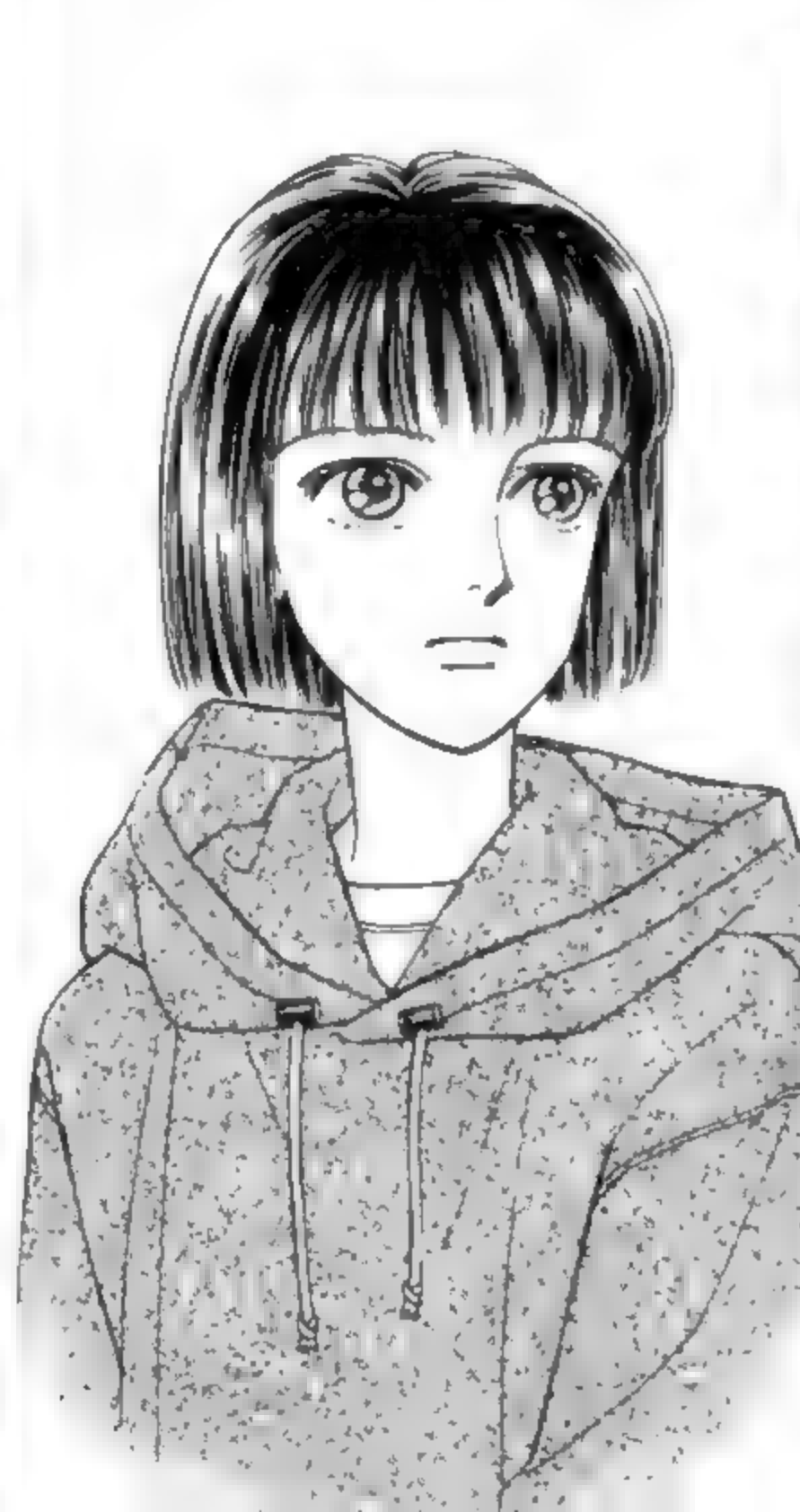


About that...

I shouldn't tell him about it for some time...

\*Proofreader note: Simon is talking about his own household here - his mother is a Japanese priestess.









But  
I am not  
going to  
worry  
about it  
anymore.

I can  
dream  
about  
some  
bad  
things,  
a little  
bit.

After  
that  
incident  
...

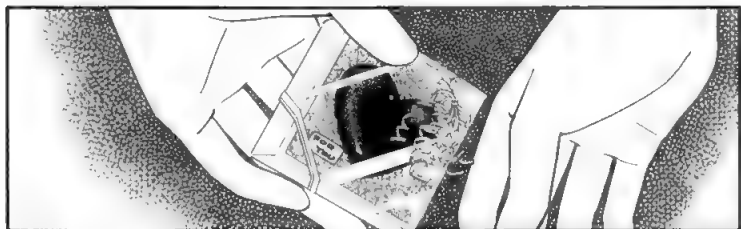


Always,

Tomorrow  
will follow  
the night...



Creak



Michael,

It's  
morning!

NATURAL 11 / おわり The end

Thank you for reading Natural until now.



Natural side story:

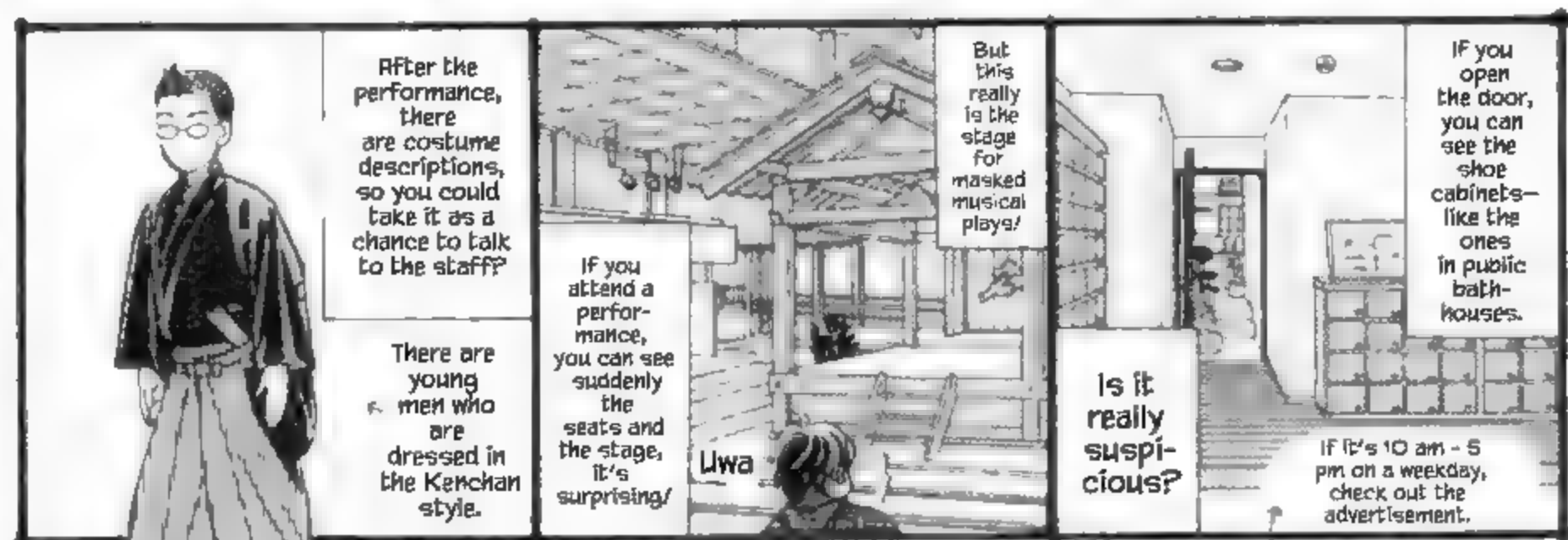
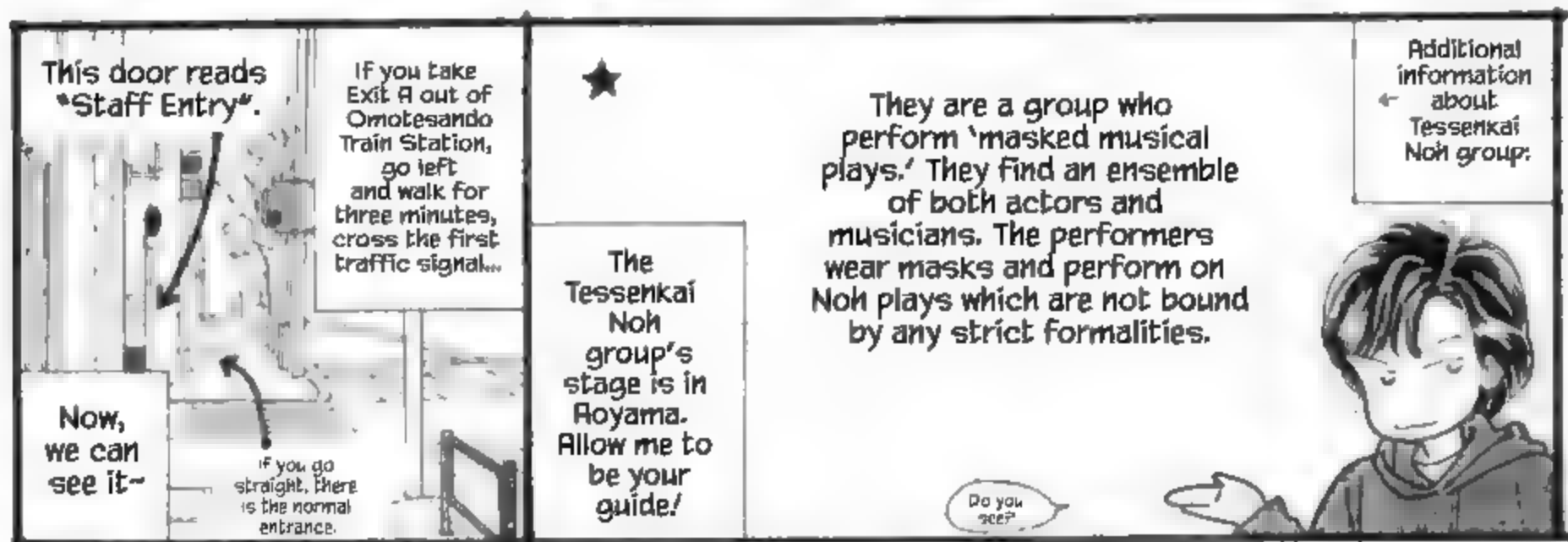
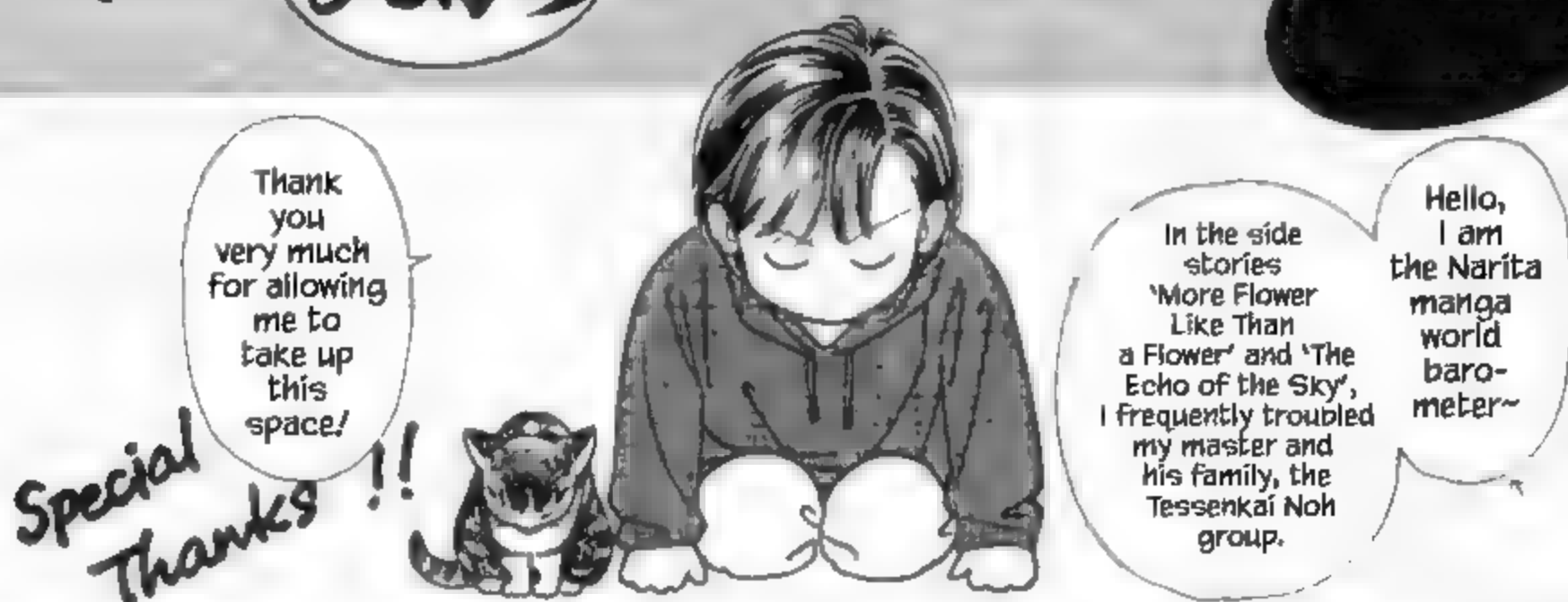
More Flowerlike  
Than a Flower

花より  
花の如く

~Natural外伝~

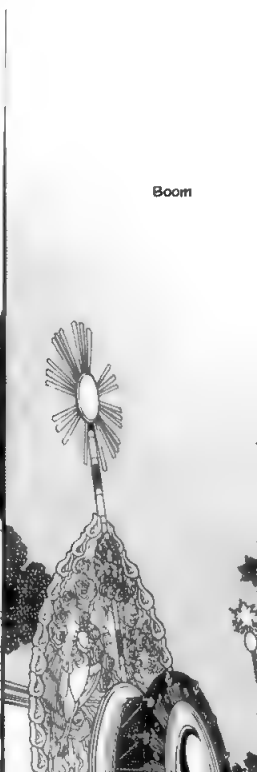
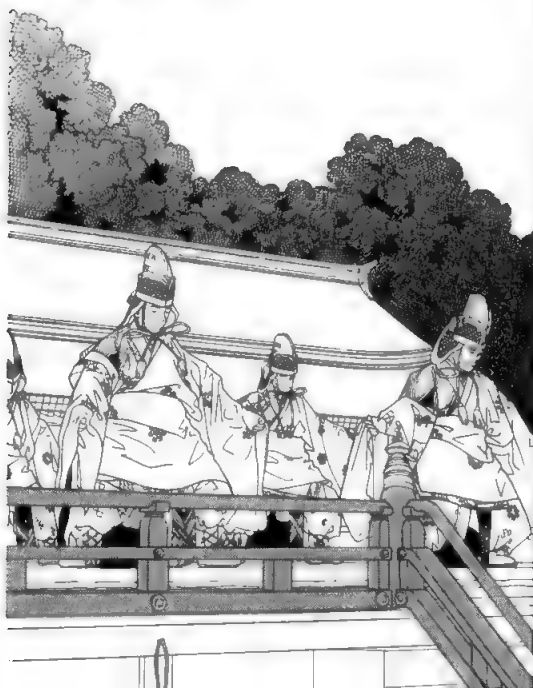
# 私をお能につれてって

Volume 11









Boom



Ah, the cord of that hat is blowing in the wind...



Kento Sakakibara, That is me,

I came to the festival of the shrine to help father today.



This is definitely an accident.

Scary!

Are they properly wearing the costume in this main play?



Yeah, and the archery competition starts at 2:00 p.m. so let's eat some food.

You came early.

Are you all prepared?

He was getting ready for the archery competition.



Kento!

Simon



If it's him,  
then he can live  
at another  
women's  
house...

Yeah  
...

Flinch



At first,  
father  
was  
angry  
...

So  
he  
said,  
but  
...

He can't  
come  
home!

Tell him  
to grow  
up!



He  
ruined a  
wedding  
!



Thank  
you!



He  
said  
'OK'.

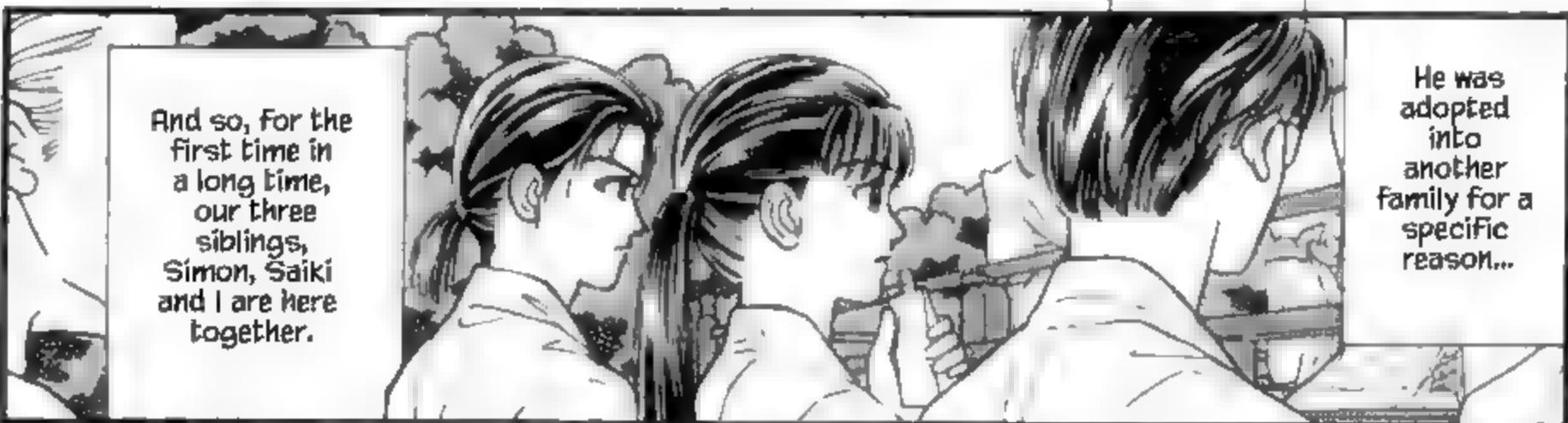
With his  
mother's  
quick  
thinking,  
he began  
to live in  
our house.



So, he  
was  
kicked  
out of  
the house.

His  
parents  
will no  
longer  
give him  
any money.

He seemed  
to have  
been hit  
(Imagination).



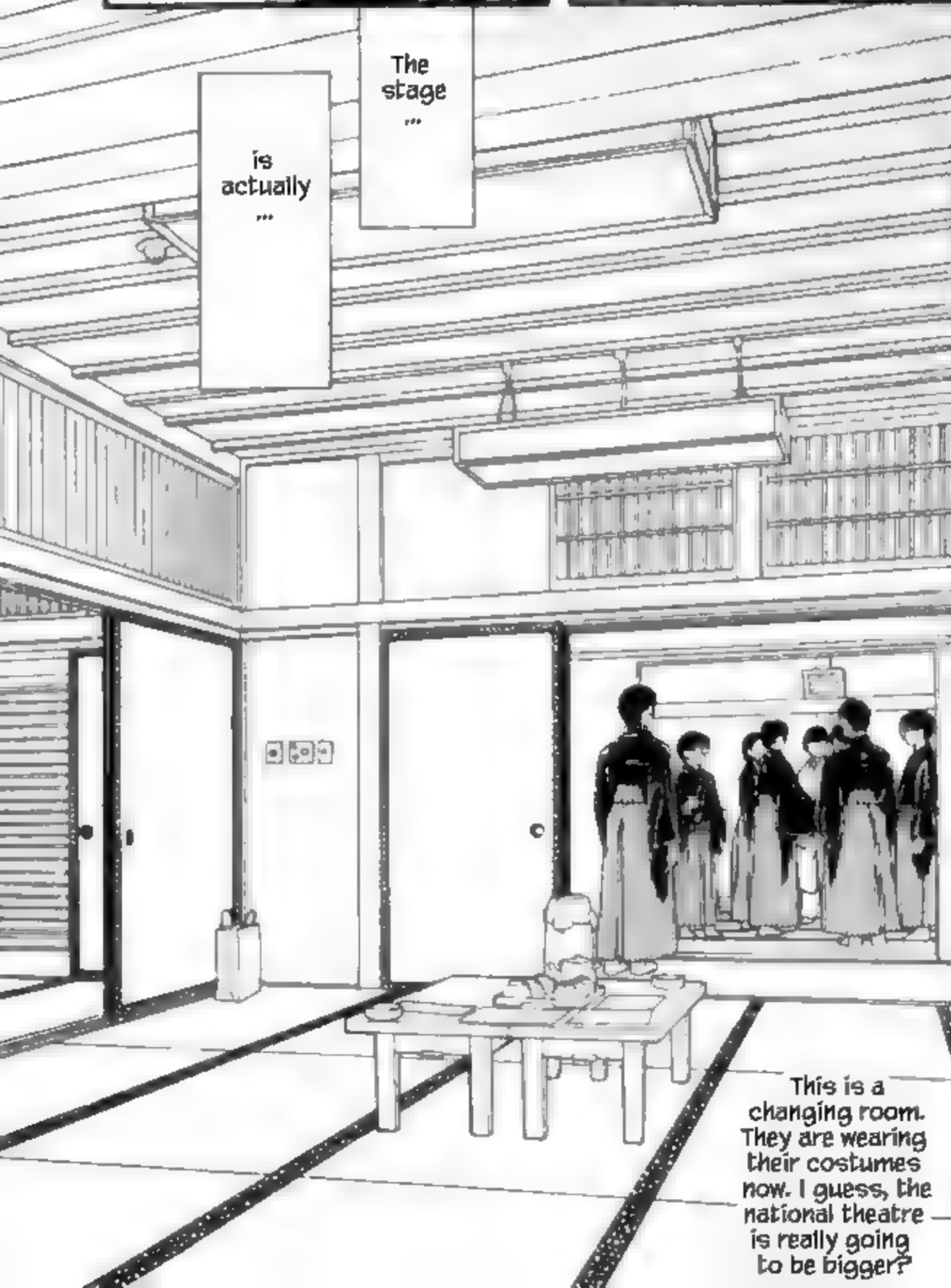
And so, for the  
first time in  
a long time,  
our three  
siblings,  
Simon, Saiki  
and I are here  
together.

He was  
adopted  
into  
another  
family for a  
specific  
reason...



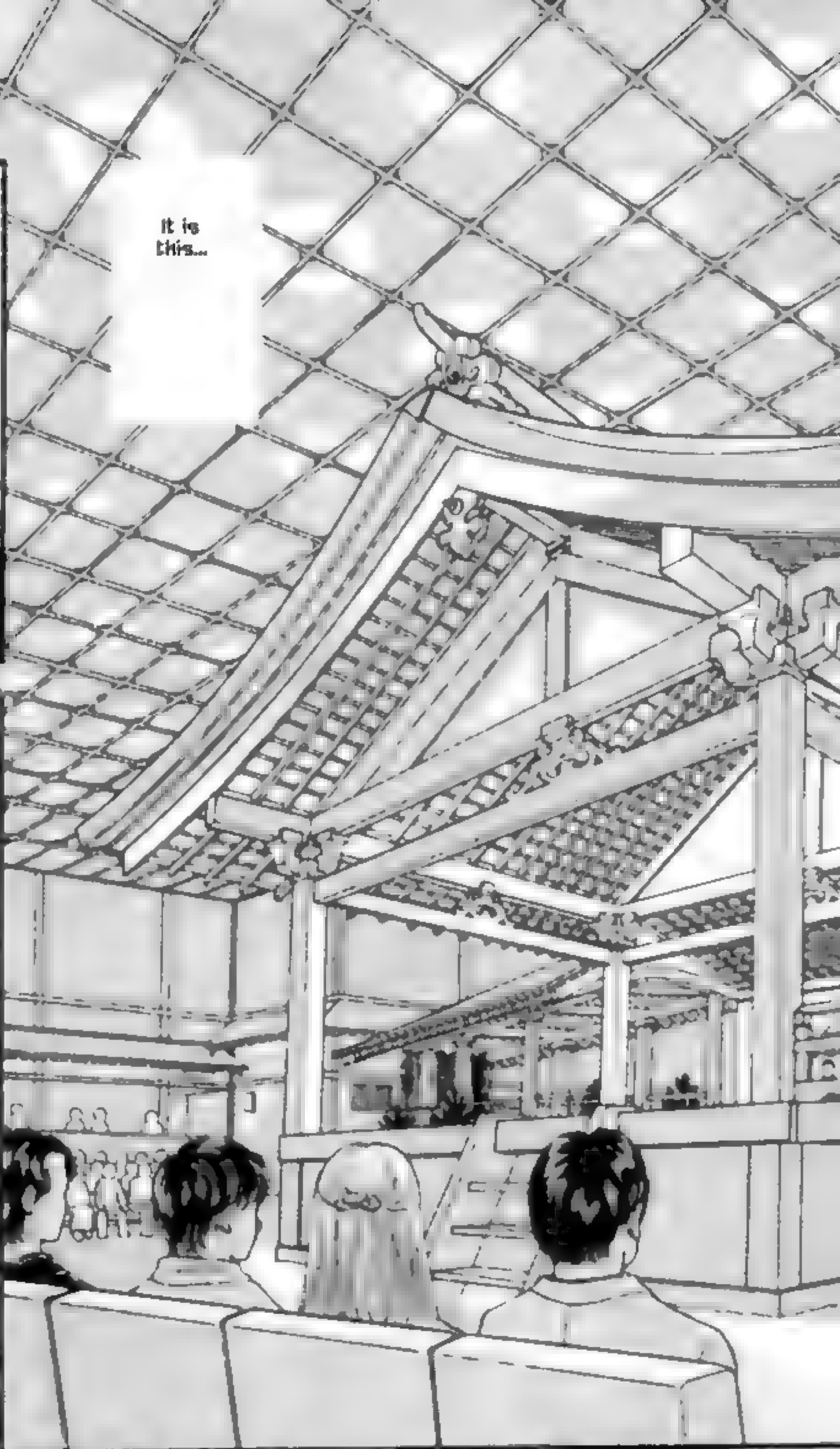
Eyes.







It is  
this...



Itoshite.

my  
grandfather.  
He is  
Master  
Soujuro,  
the teacher  
of masked  
musical  
theatre.

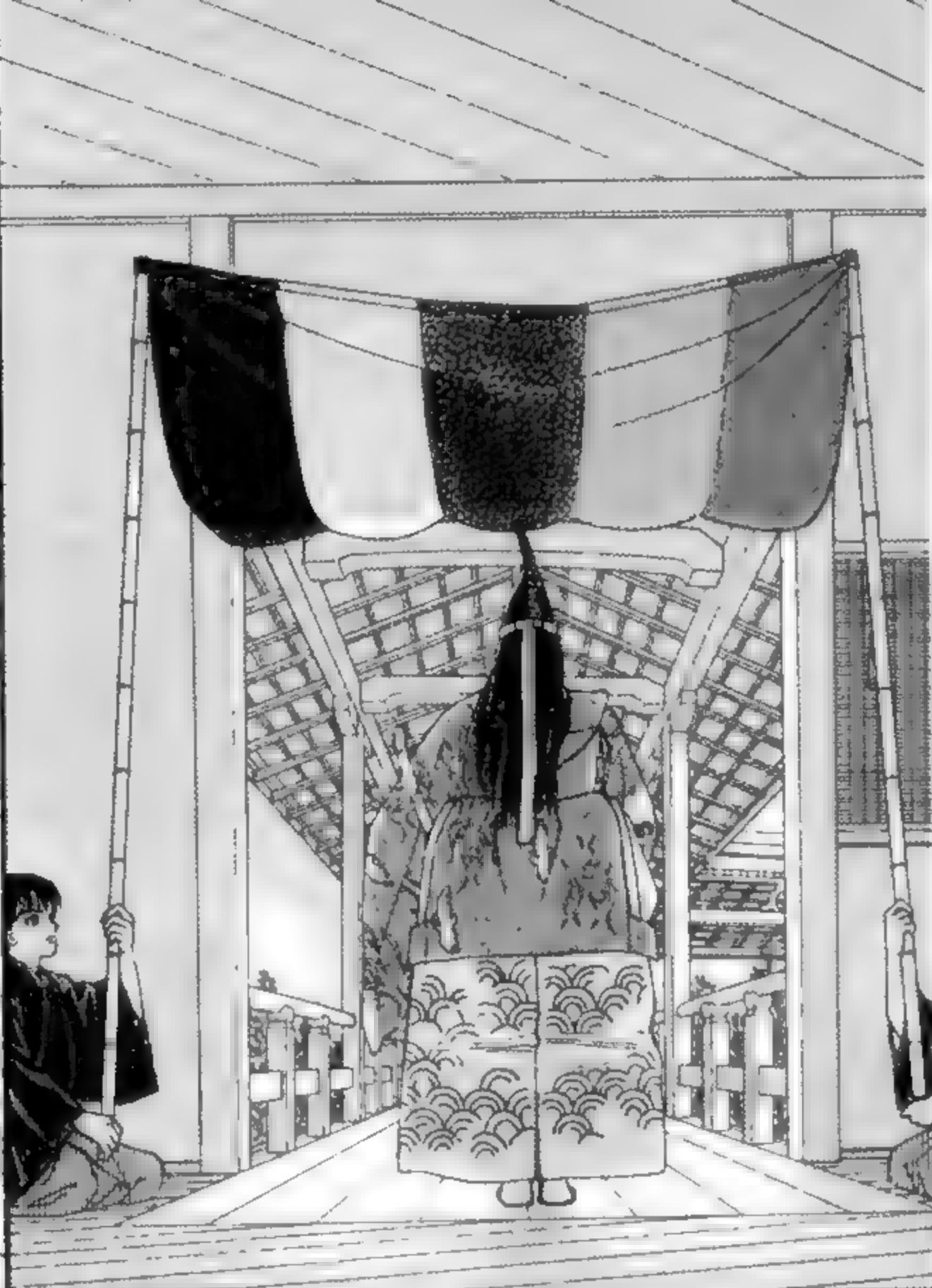
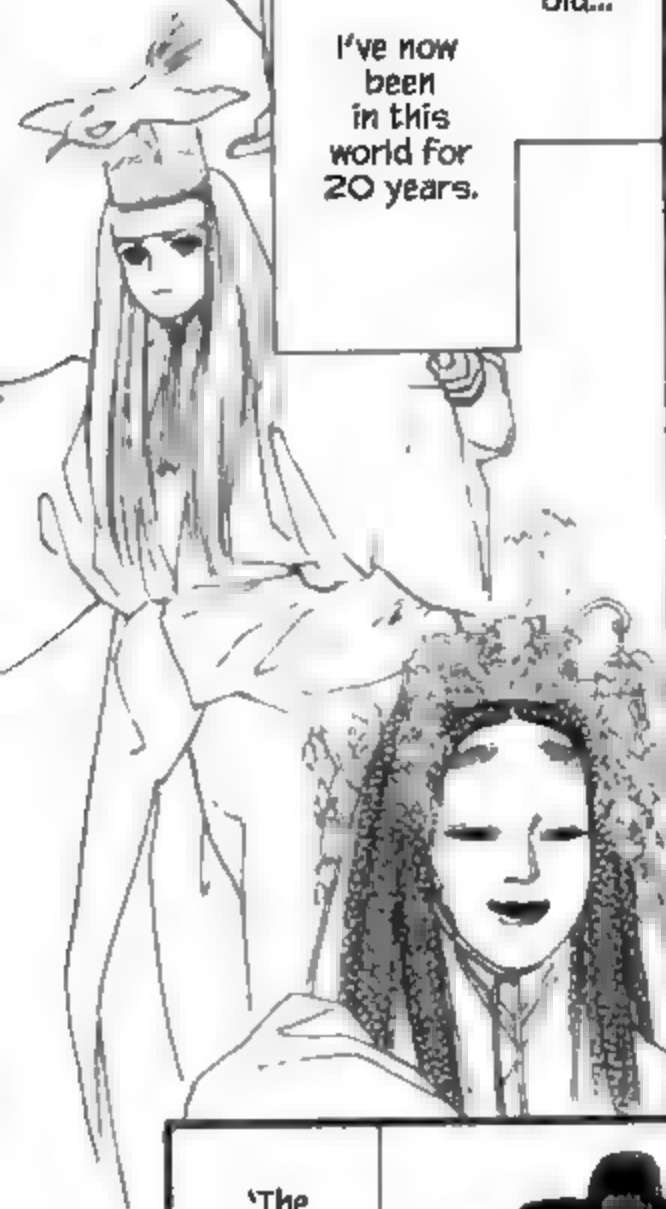
This  
is...





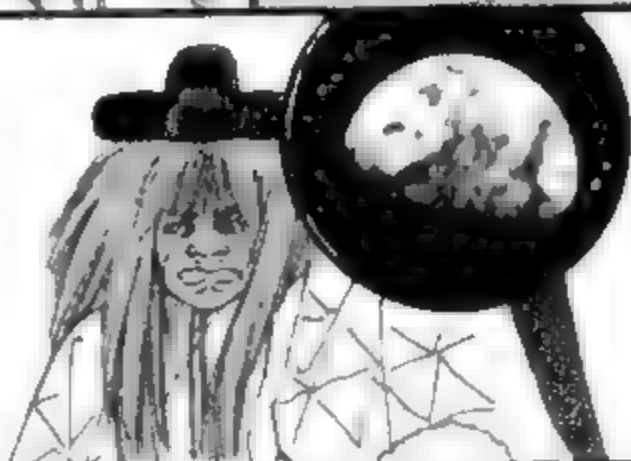
Starting  
as  
a two  
years  
old...

I've now  
been  
in this  
world for  
20 years.



'The  
earth  
was  
blue'.

Itoshite.



When I see the  
masters  
and seniors  
get out on the  
stage like this,

I feel like  
I am  
Gagarin.



Arms-  
trong?

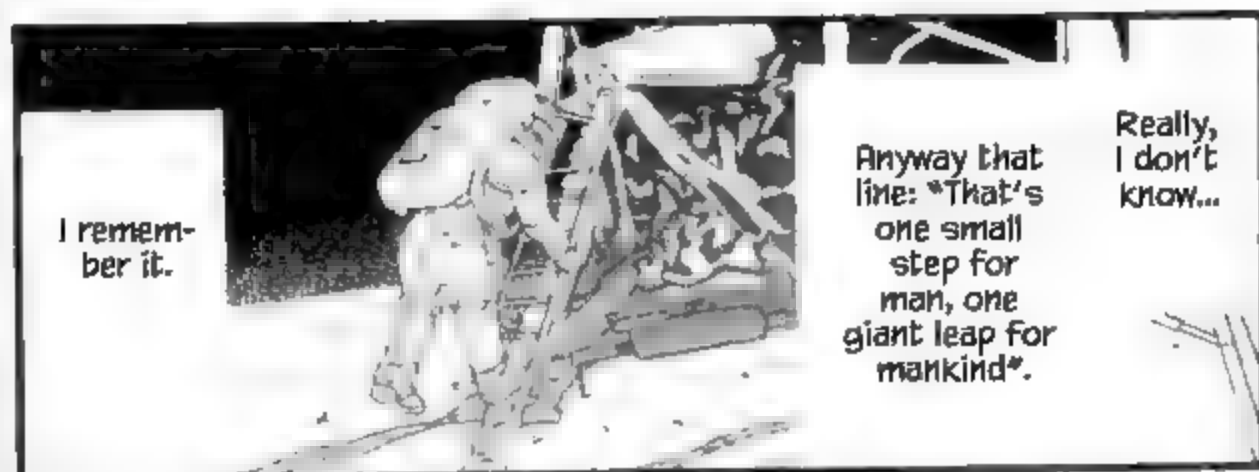
Who  
was  
it...?  
Aldrin?

That's  
not  
it...

Huh?



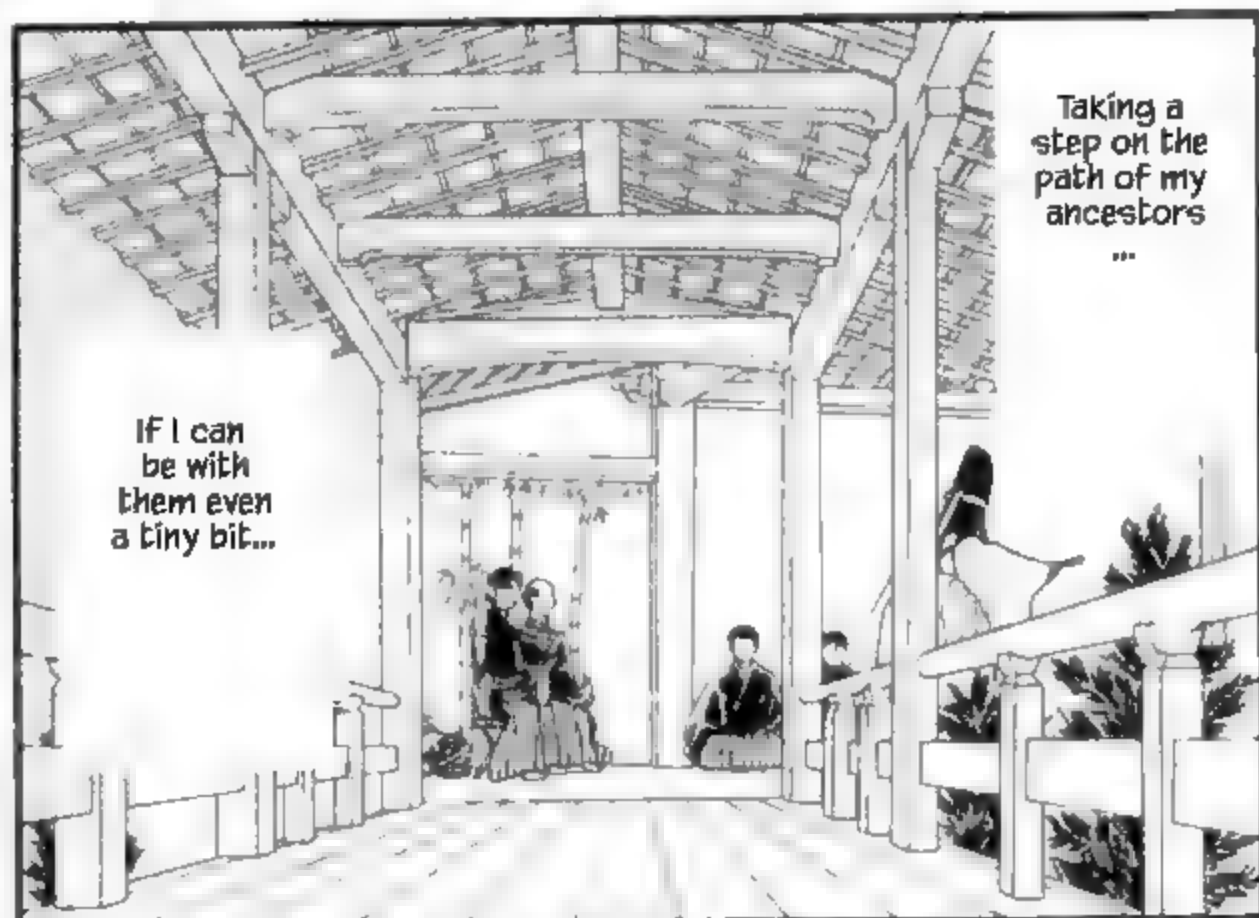
\* Since the audience can see him  
from here, he took off his glasses.



I remember it.

Anyway that line: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind".

Really, I don't know...



If I can be with them even a tiny bit...

Taking a step on the path of my ancestors ...



I will be incredibly happy.



# 夜桜能

4月2日(水) 入場券 1700 円

But  
—



劇団 羽衣 柳原竜人  
主演 神崎 金沢 悠介  
共演 土師 広瀬 隆一

Jeez—  
don't  
say it  
in such  
a loud  
voice. My  
heart is  
racing  
now.

Kento  
is going  
to do  
'The Robe  
of a  
Fairy'!? In  
Noh  
Theatre?!!

What,  
really!/?

But, that's  
truly amazing!  
I am going to see  
it no matter what!

You  
can drink  
sake  
while  
you  
watch  
it,  
right?

I know  
about  
Tagiki  
Noh—

Drinking  
a cup of  
sake!

'The  
humans  
have  
doubt and  
there is  
no deceit  
in the  
heavens'.  
Isn't this it?

I know  
about  
The  
Robe of  
a Fairy  
...

\*Takigi Noh - The masked musical play with the real campfire at night.

Can I  
take  
photos  
?

I should  
pack  
a lunchbox  
for it...

Don't  
be too  
old  
fashioned  
!

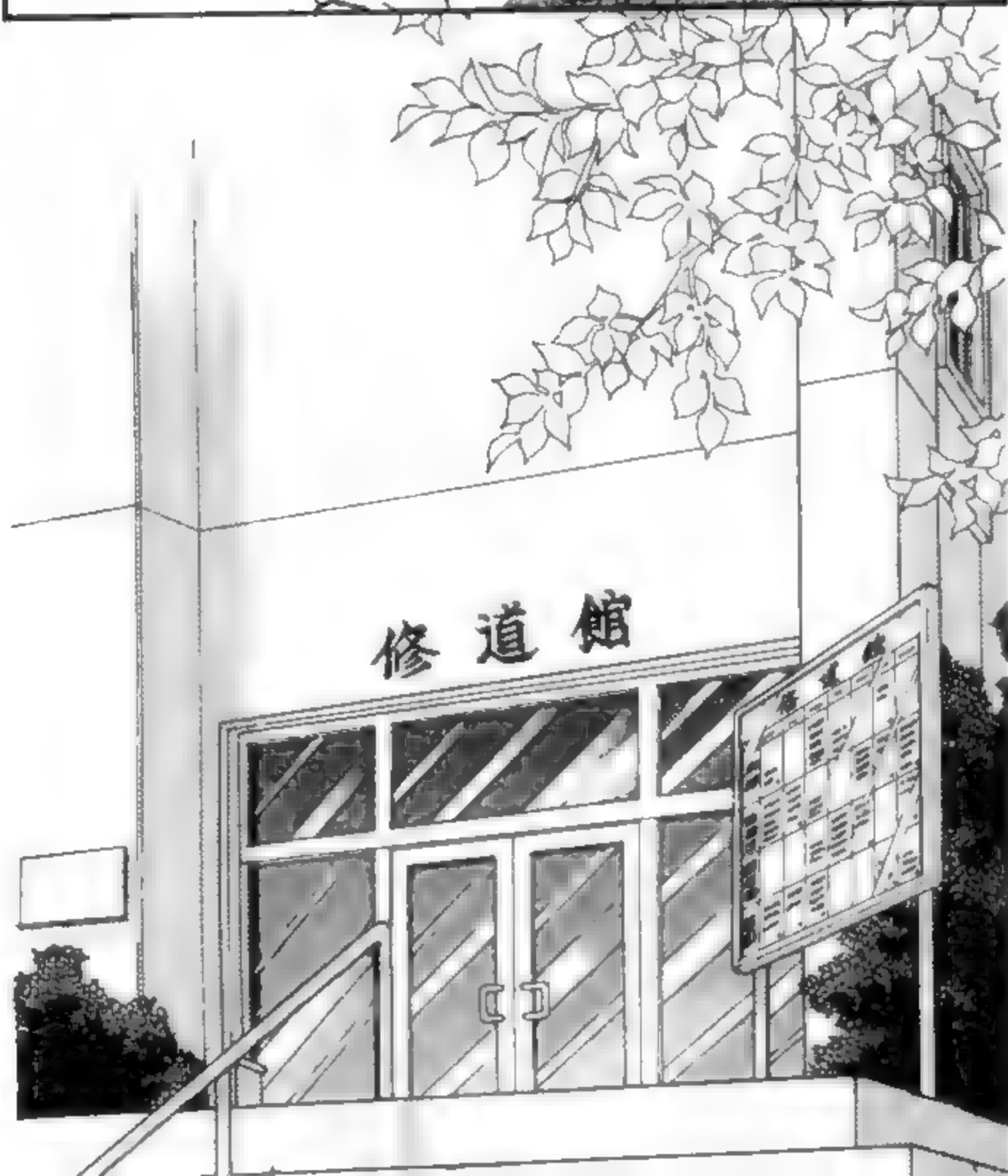
No,  
father!



More flowerlike than a flower.



This story was completed in the magazine in early 2001, but then I drew Kento's manga, the essay manga, and worked on the print volume. Now it's November, and I am more busy than when I was working on the story for the magazine—Ah, there is an art book out as well... In the art book, I explained the battle I went through while writing the last episode's plot, so I'm not going to do that again here. (I am sorry). Eh—about the high school they go to, my high school was not a normal school, so this one became a place very far away. Haha~ I really wanted them to go to the same high school (read what Doumoto says in volume 10)... Probably near Jiyugaoka~ Okuzawa. The house of Doumoto and Osawa are a few stations away from here. Michael rides the train on Hibino line and gets off at Hirou. Junior followed Michael to go to school together, but the trip was annoying, and he switches to Asakusa line. He entered Michael's school who originally chose it for the archery club.









Ah...



The truth is,  
she  
intentionally  
chose  
the shrine  
Simon was  
at.

Did she  
hope  
that he  
would take  
her away?

He must be  
the kind of man  
that women seek  
to possess...



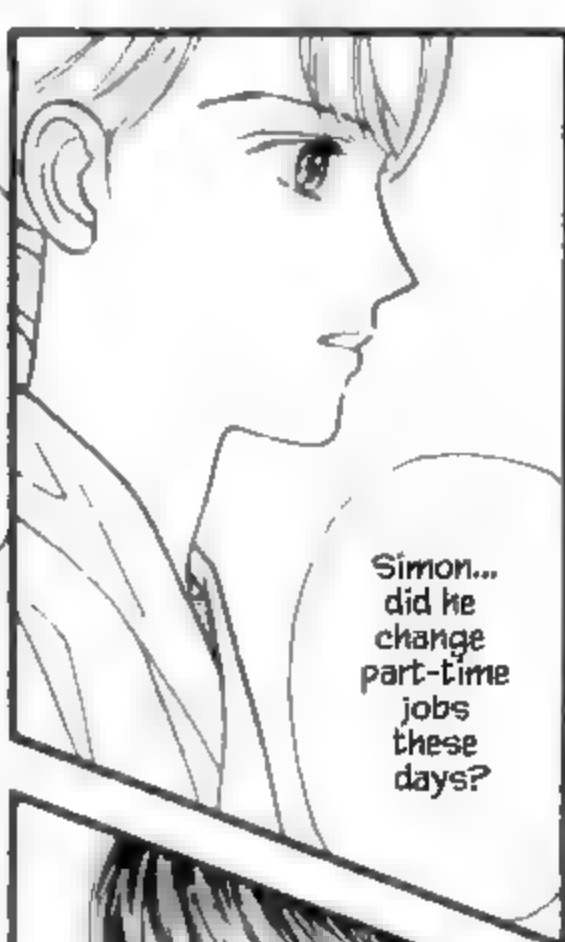
If a woman  
hears "You are  
beautiful"  
from him, they  
would surely  
be happy.



He  
probably  
doesn't  
have  
one.

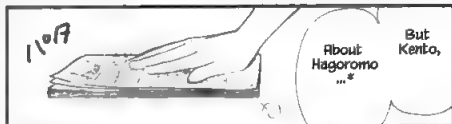
Are  
you the  
same,  
Arito?

Then Simon  
doesn't  
have a lover  
now?

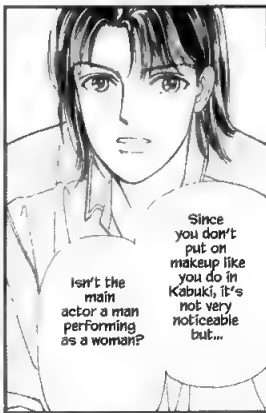




\*P/R note: The Japanese name of this popular Noh play is: Hagoromo and is most commonly translated as 'The Feather Mantle.' We translated it as 'The Robe of a Fairy' in the previous chapter and will continue to use this title. For more info on the play and our translation choice, see the note I've added at the end of chapter :)



Sfx: Tap



Sfx: Slap







Is that  
so? Him

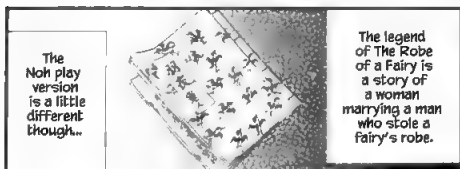
I think  
so...



Even  
though  
she's  
female,  
she's  
also a  
heavenly  
maiden,  
a fairy

And if you  
focus on the  
role itself too  
much, the  
audience won't  
be engaged—  
they'll lose  
interest.

So, she is  
not just a  
woman...



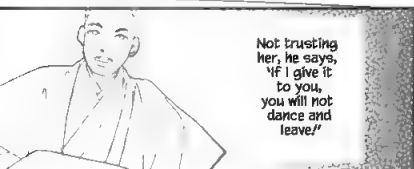
The  
Noh play  
version  
is a little  
different  
though...

The legend  
of The Robe  
of a Fairy is  
a story of  
a woman  
marrying a man  
who stole a  
fairy's robe.



She replies,  
"I cannot  
dance if I  
do not have  
my fairy robe, so  
please return  
it to me!"

A man  
refuses to  
return the  
fairy's  
robe unless  
she dances  
for him.



Not trusting  
her, he says,  
"If I give it  
to you,  
you will not  
dance and  
leave!"



Hone-  
stly,  
I also

I'm  
seriously  
thinking  
about  
how to  
act as a  
heavenly  
maiden.

He's  
carrying  
around  
a mini  
copy of  
the script  
and  
studying.

'No! The humans have doubt, but there is no deceit in the heavens.'

Her next reply is the part of the dialogue that Simon quoted:

\*Proofreader's note: the fairy is assuring the man that while humans may lie, heavenly beings (such as herself) do not.

The man whole stole her robe was wrong; she didn't have to dance for him...

She's truly amazing though

But, I am only thinking like the human I am...

She is no god; she is the dancer of the moon, and she is innocent and pure...

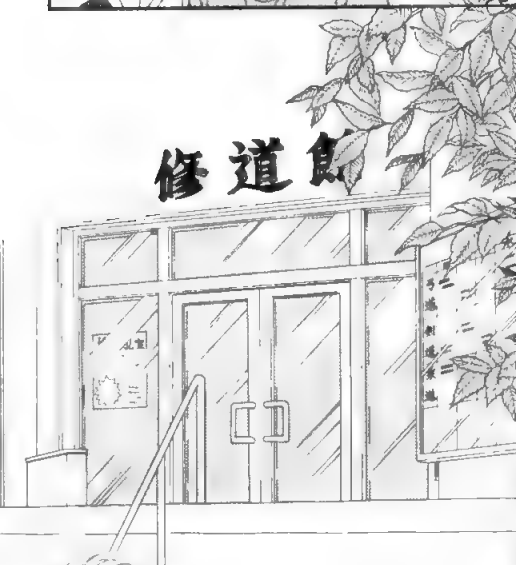
And the heavenly maiden, her fairy robe returned to her, dances as best as she can.

What heavenly maiden can I convey?

The wooden mask which can't move—  
it conveys feeling according to how you act.

Sometimes, actors fail to express well...

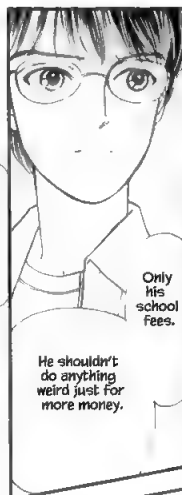
Even if others wore the same mask, it doesn't mean that everyone would act the same.





\*Proofreader's note: Programme for the play.







Is that right?/?

They deliberately get tan to look wild and sexy!

Kento/Hosts do that!



# 花よりも花の如く





This is the final rehearsal of the play.

So, this is the last time that everybody is gathered together except for the day of the performance.



Today is the rehearsal. Two days before the performance.

Of course, at this point,

Everything about the acting style has been decided.

空に吹くよで懐



吹くよで懐

\*Japanese creative Noh play is performed without a rehearsal, but this is my first time, so I am having a rehearsal.

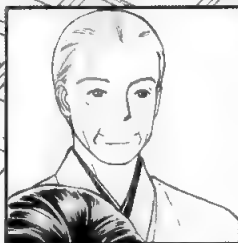




That tempo is quite hard...

It is performed with slow movements.

And the inside of the beautiful mask is full of sweat.



Yes.

The long sword is—

You should wear this small mask.





Shocked

Then,  
let's do  
white.



Ah,  
yes  
?

The  
master  
told me  
that white  
is very  
difficult.

Are...  
are you  
joking  
?



Smile

にやにや

Will  
you  
wear  
white  
?



Maybe  
he's

playing  
with me?

He is  
crazy...

Why  
did he  
ask me  
in the  
first  
place?!



Sometimes  
he gives me a  
huge role to  
play like this...

Is it  
because  
he is always  
changing  
his  
decision...?

He keeps  
thinking  
negatively.

But he  
doesn't  
tell me  
if I'm  
per-  
forming  
well or  
poorly...

Of  
course,  
he tells  
me the  
things  
that I  
should be  
careful  
of.

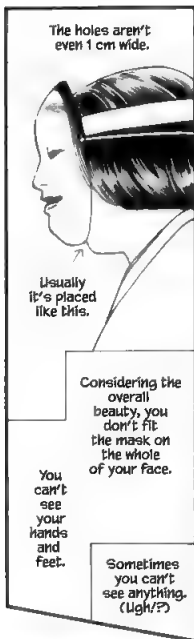


Sfx: Tap



\*Hatsukamote - Wearing the mask for the first time.





\*The master did say that 'Entertainment = Torture'.



As with my first mask,

I could end up not being able to see anything~





What?  
Where  
are you  
now?!

Osawa is  
secretly  
following  
him,  
do you  
want to  
come?



Everybody wanted  
to eat together,  
and I saw Simon  
around here.

I just  
finished  
my  
practice  
match.



Kento,  
over  
here!



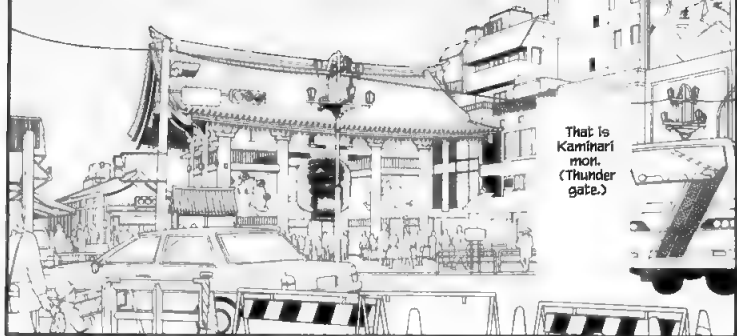
Reakusa.

Nearby  
here  
is...



We're  
searching  
nearby  
spots.

He lost him  
because of  
the crowds.



That is Kaminari  
mon.  
(Thunder  
gate.)



Clo-  
thes  
like  
that  
!!



He was holding  
something  
like a  
lunchbox  
so he could  
have gone  
off to eat?

Oh!

St-  
range  
clo-  
thes?

But  
he was  
wearing a  
strange  
clothes.



Ah!

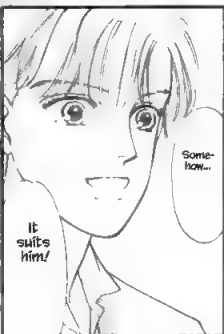


RM!  
Did  
you  
find  
him?

He is  
pulling a  
rickshaw!!

A  
rickshaw  
?!

Oh?  
Oh?!



Some-  
how...

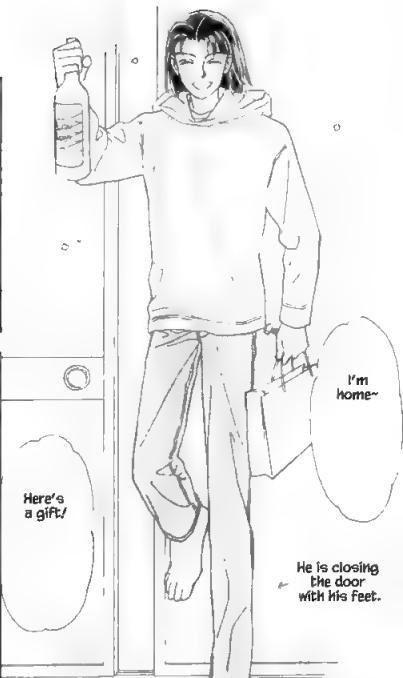
It  
suits  
him!



I thought  
that he  
looked  
tired  
these  
days.

He's  
doing  
something  
nice-





I was  
worried  
about  
him too,  
actually.

But on the  
flip side...

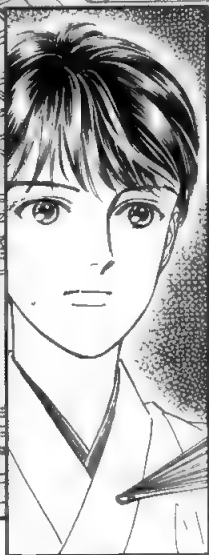
Seeing  
father get  
angry and  
watching  
him get  
kicked  
out of this  
house...

Maybe  
I was  
looking  
forward  
to it?



Clench





If tomorrow  
is coming  
regardless of  
how much  
I worry,

I  
should  
keep  
moving  
my  
body.



I can  
focus.

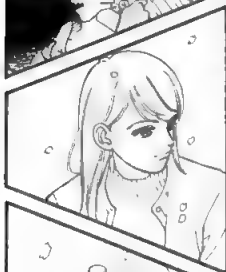


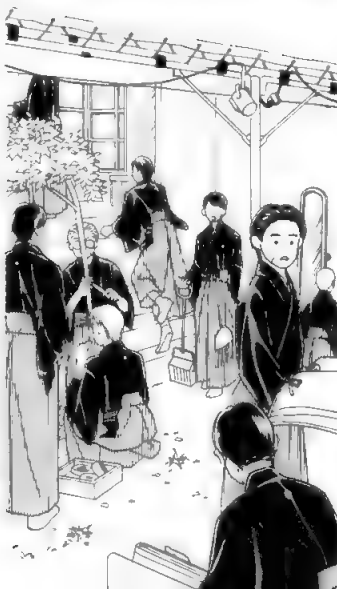
If I  
keep  
repeating  
the  
move-  
ments,

But I  
don't feel  
distracted  
or  
mechanical.

I can feel  
everything  
some-  
where...

The  
time,  
and  
space,  
and the  
noise  
of  
people  
...

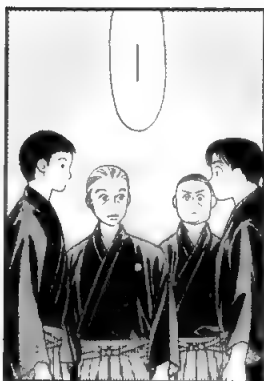






We don't have time to go all the way there and come back!

Can we still get it?!



Weren't you supposed to bring it?

Huh?

Neither of us have it?!

What!/?



Ring

Hello?

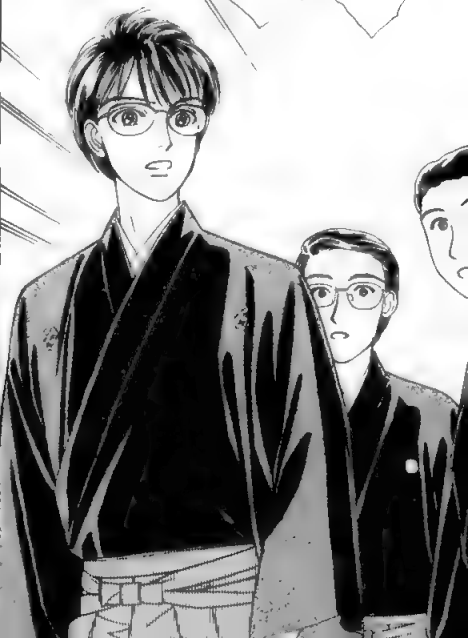
Simon, where are you now?

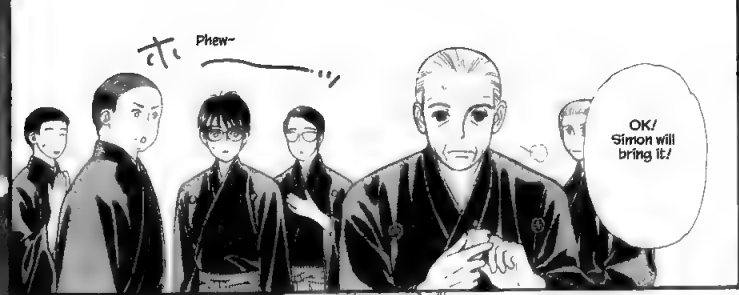


I'm headed over now.

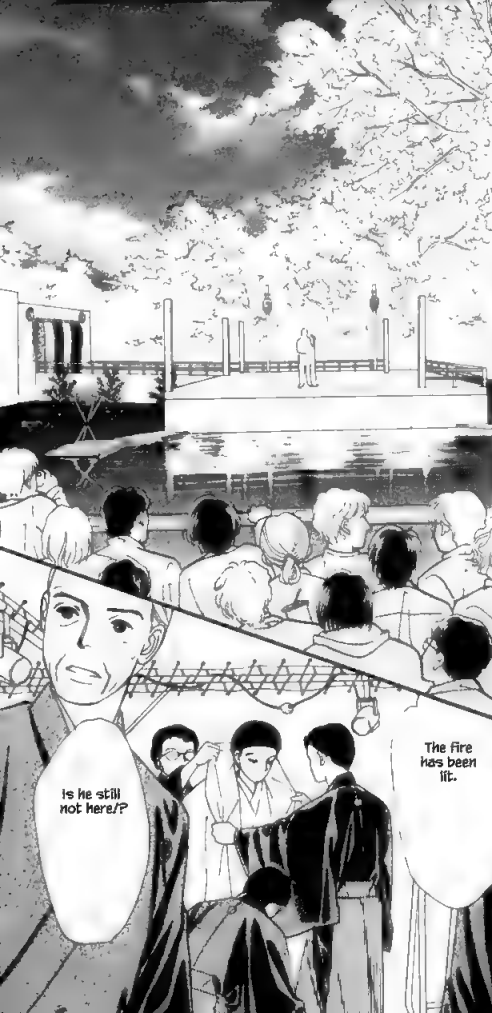
I am at the station. I just finished my shift at work.

What's up?





OK!  
Simon will  
bring it!

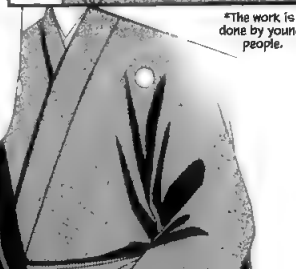


You  
asked  
Simon  
?

Yeah.



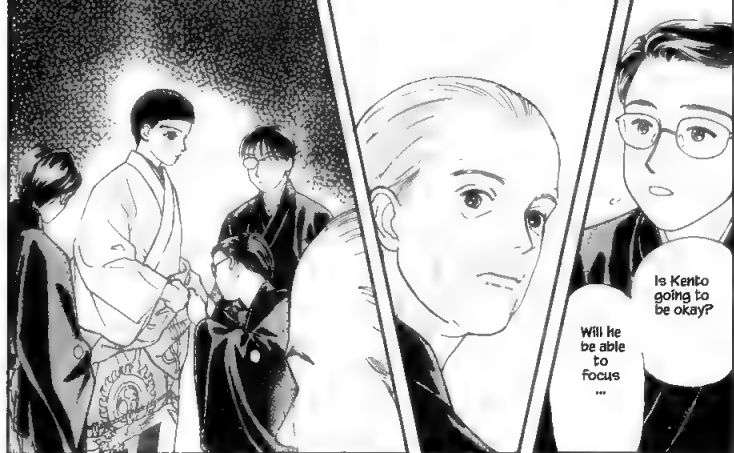
It was my  
responsi-  
bility to  
check the  
props...



The work is  
done by young  
people.

The fire  
has been  
lit.

Is he still  
not here?/?



Is Kento  
going to  
be okay?

Will he  
be able  
to  
focus  
...



In the end,  
I've decided  
not to use the  
contact lenses.

Sfx: Chatter, Wee woo



An  
ambu-  
lance...

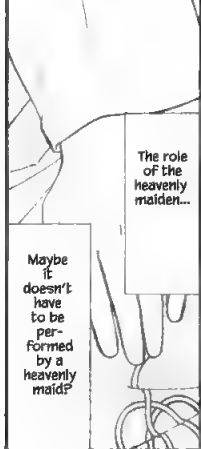
The  
people  
being  
carried  
away are  
okay.



They  
hurt  
and feel  
too  
unfam-  
iliar.

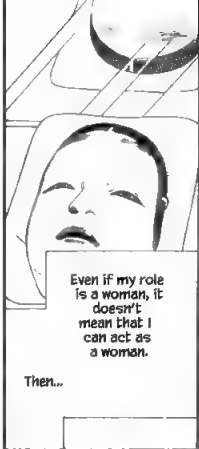
I thought they  
might take away  
something more  
important  
than my sight.





The role  
of the  
heavenly  
maiden...

Maybe  
it  
doesn't  
have  
to be  
per-  
formed  
by a  
heavenly  
maiden?



Even if my role  
is a woman, it  
doesn't  
mean that I  
can act as  
a woman.

Then...

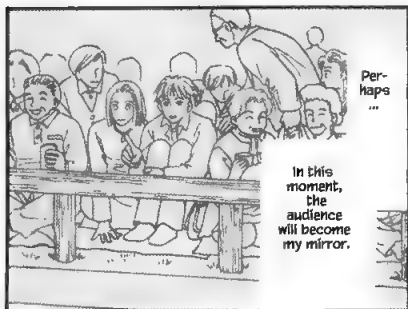


I want to play a  
demon too.  
A ghost too.

A heavenly  
maiden too...

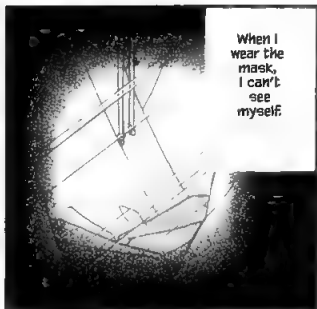
if I knew all the  
different parts  
of myself,  
I could better  
act as  
a heavenly  
maiden.





Per-  
haps  
...

In this  
moment,  
the  
audience  
will become  
my mirror.



When I  
wear the  
mask,  
I can't  
see  
myself.



I brought  
what you  
asked!



...  
Kento  
?



You  
came!

We can  
start on  
time!

P1

There's such an enthusiasm in it!

The sound of the pipe!

Wow!

It's dark as I thought.

Yeah.

Huh?

Did you hurry over?

Why are you so out of breath?

You're late, Simon.



Now,

My own  
'2001: Space  
Odyssey'  
begins!



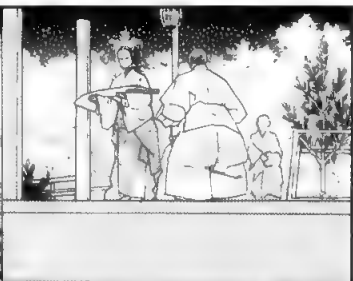


When  
I saw  
Kento's  
expression,

The  
effeminate  
part of me  
felt shy...

He's  
beautiful  
...!

Kento is  
so pretty  
...



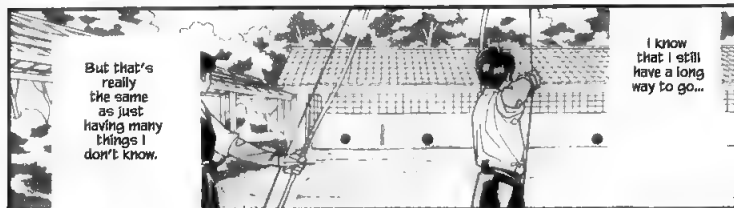
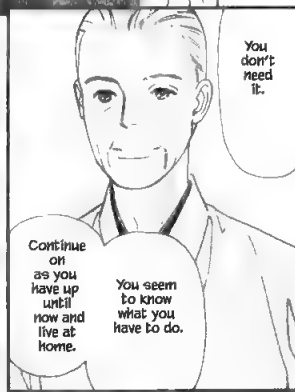
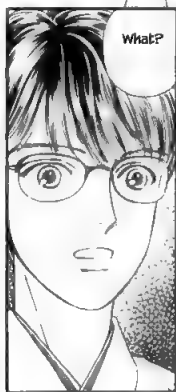


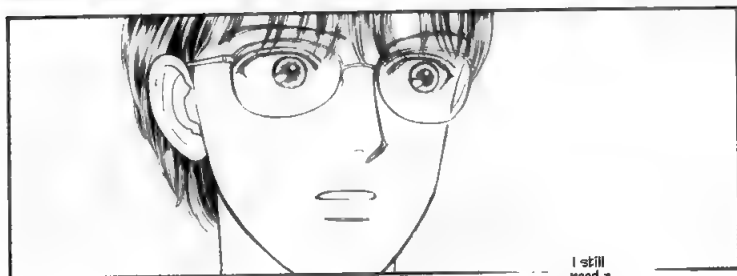




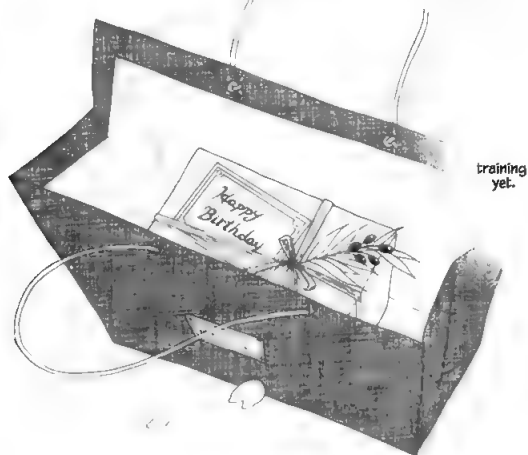
Now that  
it's over, I'm...







I still need a lot of...



P/R note continued: Hagoromo is the name of a Feathered kimono worn by the tennin (Japanese spiritual beings of folklore). It is also the name of the popular Japanese Noh play most often translated as "The Feather Mantle." We've translated it as "The Robe of a Fairy" since 'tennin' might be translated as 'fairy', and 'mantle' or 'kimono' are both terms that refer to robe-like outer garments. (I am not sure why 'mantle' is typically used, but 'hagoromo' does translate: 'feather kimono' so mantle/robe are both acceptable). We like to think "The Robe of a Fairy" sounds a bit more romantic than "The Feather Mantle."

Tennin are mythological creatures like nymphs, fairies, or angels. Each name listed come from different places/religions from around the world, but they all refer to the same kind of winged being. Unlike fairies and angels, tennin are able to remove their 'wings' which are their feathered kimonos/hagoromos. Without their hagoromo, the beings are unable to fly and return to heaven. Just as in the play, the Hagoromo legend tells the story of a fisherman stealing a hagoromo he finds. While the play's fisherman returns the in exchange for a dance, the fisherman of the legend steals the hagoromo, kidnapping the tennin and tricking her into marrying him. Years later, the fisherman confesses to his tennin bride, and she manages to steal back her hagoromo and return to heaven.

~Thanks for reading!~ Best: Rei-chan :)



# 天の の 郷音

てん

The echo of  
the sky

ひびき

~Natural外伝~

Natural  
side story





If you just focus on one thing, it's easier to concentrate.

The plot and history, the beauty of the costumes, the interesting way that the masks change, the unique music...

It's difficult to comprehend masked musical plays from just one show.

Master said ...

You must see it once~

Definitely!!

Narital goes to both of them 100%!

BIG EGG

Fully motivated

The Royama stage has one show per month, and there's another show at Hosho Noh theatre as well.

ニョーカース カフェ  
地下鉄A1出口

The national Noh theatre has their performance as well, so I go there often. You can pass the shrine on your way there, and there's many interior designs as well!

Additionally, in the Hosho theatre, there's always plays with different actors throughout the year, so I always go there. I saw my first Noh play at the Hosho theatre!

If I draw a map, it's here...

It's a place where women's hearts and your materialistic greed are shaken up.

I've been following hosho theatre performances ever since I saw my first play there!

★定期公演 於 日生能楽堂 (定時開演) ¥3,500 (前・後席あり)

2001.12.14 金	巻綱 自然居士	PM 6:00
2002.1.14 祝	鶴 山姥 巻綱 自然居士	PM 1:00
2.8 (金)	無野 鶴雲	PM 6:00~
3.8 (-)	海士 巻綱 山姥 自然居士	
4.12 (-)	巻綱 山姥 自然居士	
5.10 (-)	巻綱 山姥 自然居士	
6.14 (-)	安宅 巻綱 山姥	
9.13 (-)	花巻 巻綱 山姥	
10.11 (-)	梅枝 巻綱 山姥	
11.8 (-)	俊寛 巻綱 山姥	
12.13 (-)	実盛	

★定期公演 於 日生能楽堂 (定時開演) ¥3,500 (前・後席あり)

2001.12.19 水	巻綱 自然居士	PM 6:30~
2002.1.23 (-)	項羽	PM 2:30
2.27 (-)	千手	
3.27 (-)	柏崎	PM 6:30~
4.24 (-)	巻老	
5.22 (-)	安達原	
7.10 (-)	班女	
9.25 (-)	須磨 源氏	
10.23 (-)	山姥 巻綱	
11.27 (-)	巴	PM 2:30~
12.18 (-)	女郎花	

観仙会・今後の定期公演予定  
(2002年12月~2003年12月)

### Quiz!

The Noh Tessenkaï group main performance schedule (for December 2001 - December 2002):

Who is the person who I am calling my master?  
Hint: Watch "Bastard trip" stopped on its way from October 13th, 2001!

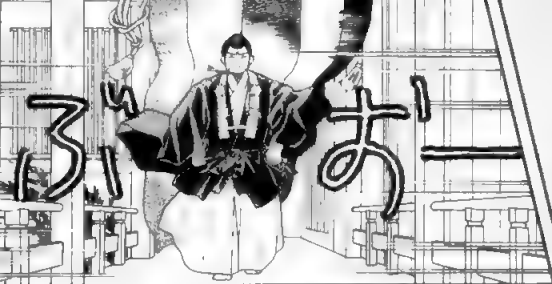
Let's see you at a Noh theatre!

I'm looking forward to my master's stage performance which will be on December 14th at Hosho theatre!

The Royama stage is closer to audience seating and has a great vibe, so I recommend it!

Contact info for the Tessenkaï group performances...  
Phone: +03-3401-2285 (open weekdays from 10:00-11:00). There's a website too!  
http://jade.dit.ne.jp/~Tessen  
\*(P/R note: doesn't work when translated...sorry, American readers!.)  
Email: tessens@jade.dit.ne.jp.

Hosho Theatre:  
Y3500-6000



Sfx: Woosh

On a day  
with strong  
winds—winds  
that looked  
like they  
could make  
laundry fly  
through  
the air...

Today,  
I'm on  
the  
outdoor  
stage  
acting  
as Jiyo.

I am Kento  
Sakakibara,  
a pupil  
of the  
Noh  
theatre  
arts/  
(Masked  
musical  
play.)

I am  
still a student,  
so I'm not a  
professional yet.

I wonder  
if the  
child  
actors  
are okay  
...

Thank god this  
isn't my  
first time  
doing an  
outdoor  
performance  
as Shite!

Shite  
(Main  
character)

Unseen but  
behind them (The  
people who  
look after  
Shite)

I think  
even the  
great and  
powerful  
tengu god  
could be  
blown away  
by  
this wind ...

Jiyo  
(Chorus)

We all do this in rotation. We act  
as supporting characters too!

修道館



Good.

Let's  
sing as  
best  
we can!



He's  
stand-  
ing  
strong!

Oh,  
he is  
good  
!



'Kurama  
Tengu'  
was my  
brother's  
and my first  
stage  
performance.

When I  
see this  
kid, I  
remem-  
ber:



SIMON

Both of  
them were on  
their first stage  
at 3 years old

Before he  
was adopted  
by my aunt and  
uncle, he  
acted onstage  
at five years  
old!

Yes,  
Simon  
actually  
was in  
it too!



KENT



Wow~  
Kento!?

I come  
every  
day.

You're  
here  
too,  
Simon~

Ah,  
Kento!



We call  
those  
seasons  
the busy  
harvest  
periods  
of Noh  
theatre.

During  
spring  
and  
autumn,  
Noh  
theatre  
is busy.



It's  
been a  
month  
for me  
too.

No,

Hehe

Really  
?!



It's  
been  
such  
a long  
time!

It's been  
one month  
since I  
last came  
here. Have  
you been  
here since  
then?



Fail...

You  
should be  
laughing;  
he just  
cracked  
a joke.

It's just  
like a  
farming  
village.

Wow!/?  
That's  
what you  
call it?





Why are we huddling in a corner to look at this? It makes it feel like this is a risqué photo...

Personally, I do feel like it's a risqué photo!

It's really well taken. He didn't use the flash?

Here it is:  
It's this one.

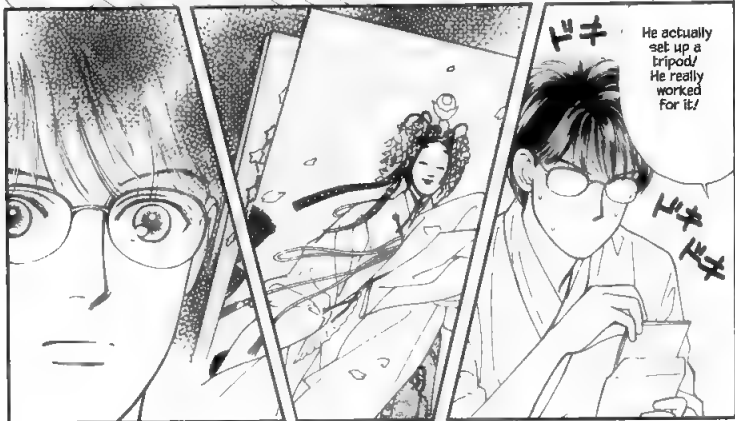
Osawa gave me a photo of the fire from the Noh play in April.

Oh! Kento,



What?!

Sfx: Thump



ドキ  
He actually set up a tripod! He really worked for it!

ドキ  
ドキ

That is horrible, Nobita...

Of course I look younger than Simon, but...



Please call me Harry Potter at least!

Kento is two years older than Simon, but he doesn't look it. When he takes off his glasses, he could look like Saiki! (Does that mean that he looks like a woman? It's not that he is not handsome, but he looks dense. I felt less excited about NBR. I thought that I am less excited for the since Barkley retired, but now I've fallen in love with masked musical plays! Maybe you're thinking: do people usually fall in love like this? But it's so fun!!! When I think back to when 'Rien' was a hit movie or when 'Cipher' was all about the actors, and now Japan is on the main stage! So, it is natural for me to fall in love with the art of masked musical plays. I am so in love with it! So if I draw another series, it will likely be about Noh theatre. Until then though, I am just going to play around for a year without making any plans! It's been 23 since my debut. This is my first vacation time for recharging. (I will be going to see all the masked musical plays though!) Goodbye then! Until we meet again! If you see me at a Noh theatre, please do come say hi!

20c



It's not that weird...

It's his first time seeing it objectively.

Tha... thank god!

Sigh



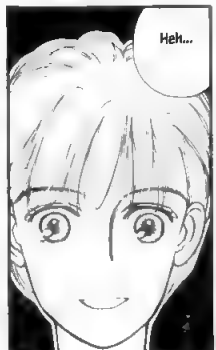
Sfx: Collapse



I was wearing underwear stuffed with wool.

Yeah.

Kento, you're skinny, but you look plump and have softer lines here.



Heh...



I was 'naked' since my fairy robe was stolen.

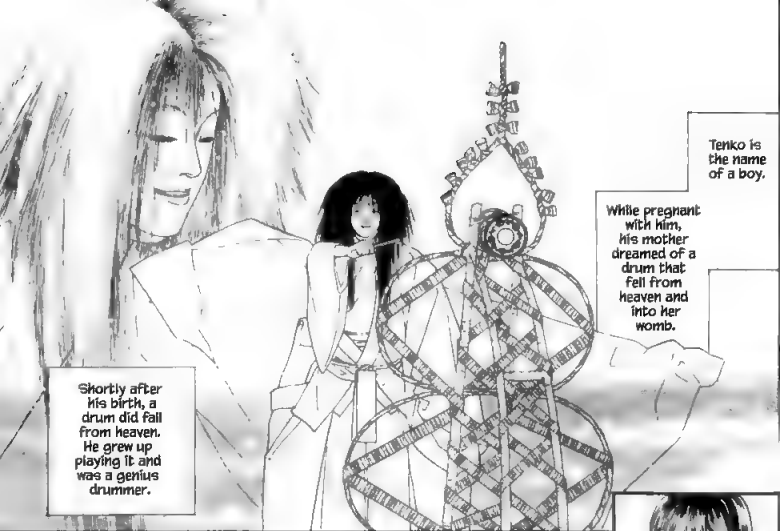
I wore a lot of clothing ...

It was all to try to portray a woman's naked body;



\*Sorry for referencing something that only people from Tokyo will understand!





Tenko is  
the name of  
a boy.

While pregnant  
with him,  
his mother  
dreamed of a  
drum that  
fell from  
heaven and  
into her  
womb.

Shortly after  
his birth, a  
drum did fall  
from heaven.  
He grew up  
playing it and  
was a genius  
drummer.



But I  
definitely...

And the  
stars  
aren't  
visible  
in Tokyo  
...

Yes?!  
But I  
could  
see stars  
in the  
sky.

Or  
so I  
thought,  
but...

When  
I saw  
Tenko  
for the  
first time,  
it was  
my grand-  
father's  
fire Noh  
play.

...But  
I must  
have been  
mistaken.

Later, I learned  
that it was at a  
performance hall.



Maybe  
I heard  
it like  
that...?

'Tenko' is  
another  
name for  
'Kenyuu'  
of July 7th,  
so the song  
is all about  
the stars and  
the moon.

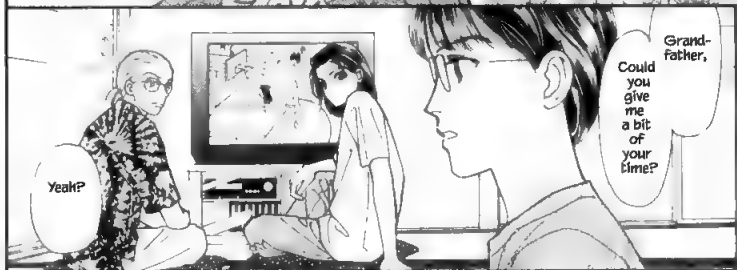


I  
definitely  
saw the  
stars...

Filling  
the sky...

Ah~ They  
turned  
the game  
around!

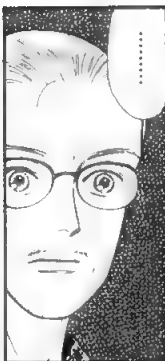
They  
won by  
that  
shot  
they  
just  
scored!



Yeah?

Grand-  
father,  
  
Could  
you  
give  
me  
a bit  
of  
your  
time?







Sfx: Sigh



\*(P/R note: The emperor was the one who ordered his execution.)



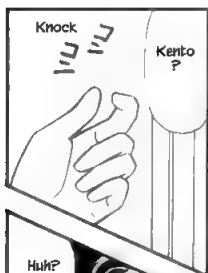
I think he said the same thing before.





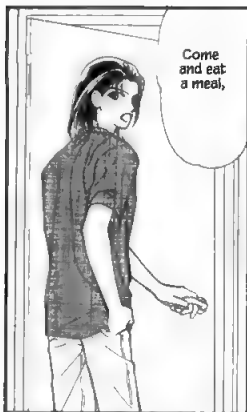
We could've been in such different positions...



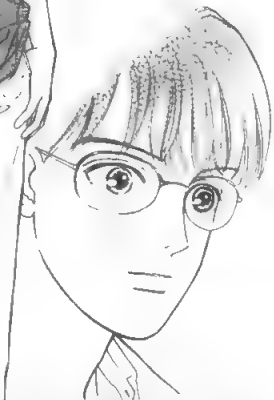








You are not wearing those doll clothes at the moment.





I am so hard working, and I am Nobita??!

No.. Nobita !?

Help me, Doraemon!

Shocked

\*Nobita: He's a friend of Doraemon, and he always orders Doraemon to do something. Thus, he is used as an example of laziness.



Yeah ...



Oh, Simon ?

I think he's acting a little cross these days.



Maybe they are only being strict with him to protect the honor of the shrine?

The parents of the woman think so too...



Why?

He still isn't getting any money from his parents,

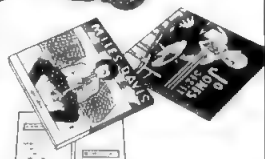
But he doesn't think he has done anything wrong.

Do you feel  
like you are  
the one wearing  
doll clothes?

But he  
must  
be  
angry  
...

Pro-  
bably  
...

...



Doll  
clothes  
...

What  
did  
he mean  
by that?

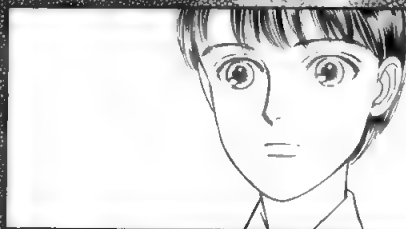


Why  
?

Since  
when?

Maybe  
he's  
wearing  
them?

Simon  
will be  
going to  
Romori.



Thank god,  
it's not me!!

I can keep  
practicing!



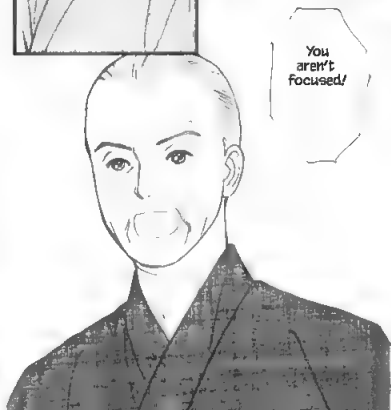


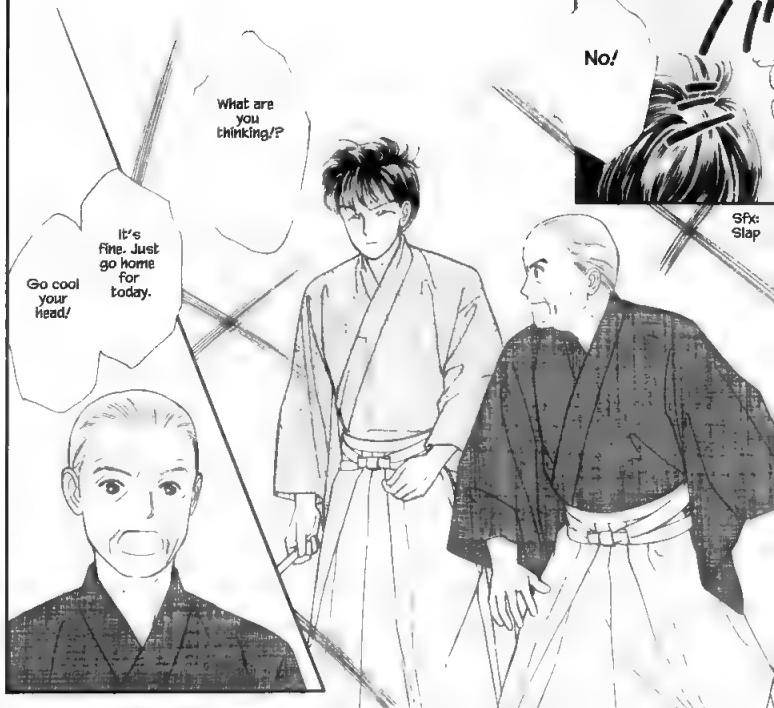
I am sorry...



I am  
sorry. For  
thinking  
'thank  
god'...

I am  
sorry,  
Simon!



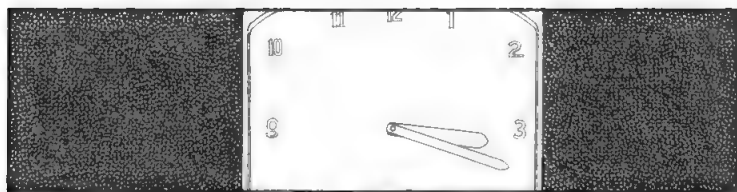




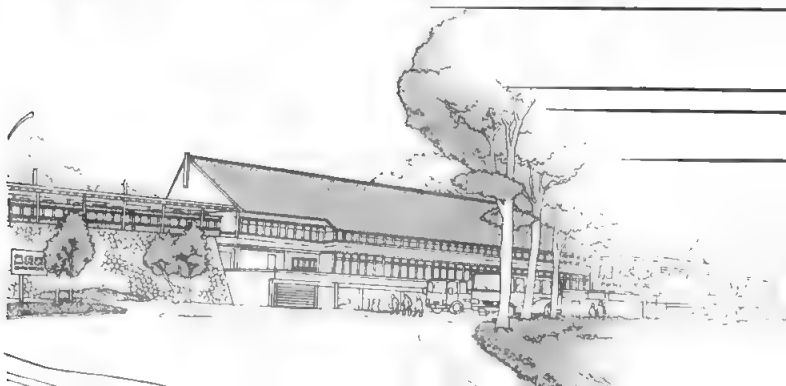
\*He was hit a lot by the last teacher too.

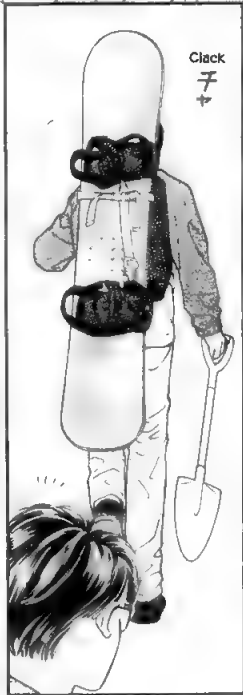
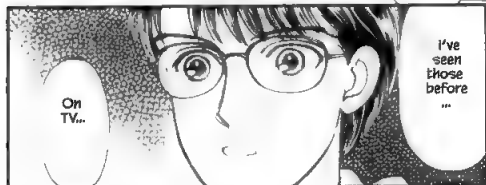
The teacher often hits other people.



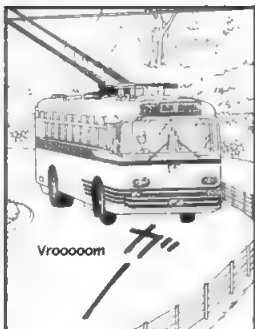
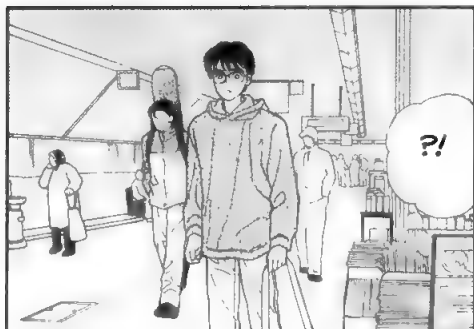


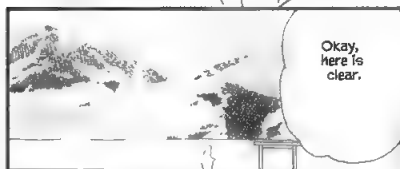














\*Right now, it's not even 10°C.



\*Does it look a bit like Star Wars maybe?  
But this quite stings when you wear it.



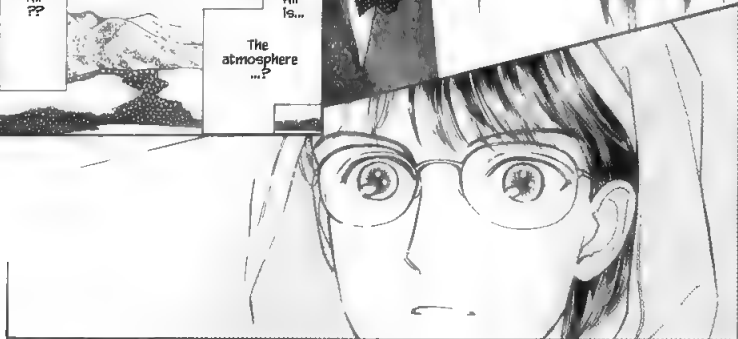
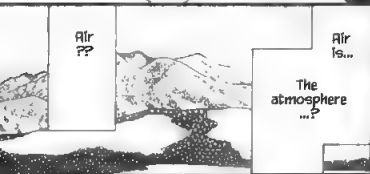
\*Please enjoy the view looking through through the mask.

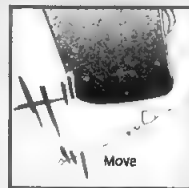






Sfx: Get up





I can't believe  
a place as  
incredible as  
this exists!





Wow-!

For the first time ...

His face looks young... like a child.



I think I  
under-  
stand  
what he  
meant  
now...



Until the  
bright  
blue sky  
ends up  
beneath  
his feet.



Flip-  
ping  
the  
night  
sky  
upside  
down



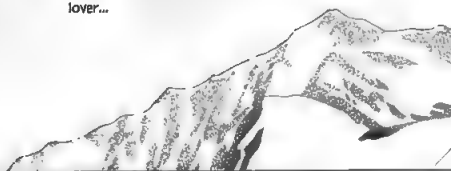
Here,  
all I am  
is me...

I'm  
no one's  
family.

God  
has  
no part  
of this.

I am  
neither  
friend  
nor  
lover...

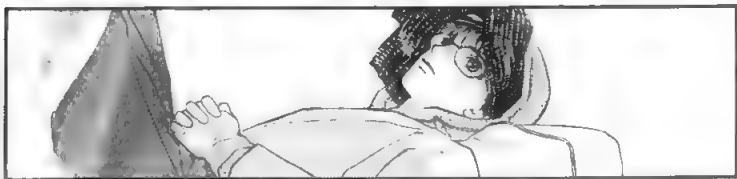
I can  
strip  
off  
my doll  
clo-  
thes,  
and...



There is  
only  
bliss.

In the  
vast  
sky...  
the  
air,





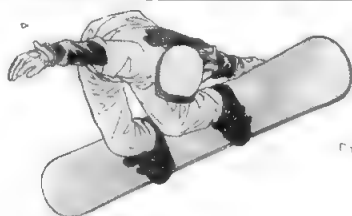
Hey  
Miles,

I can hear  
Papa  
Jones...

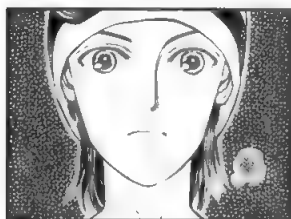


Tenko

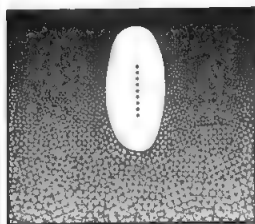
100



# 天の響









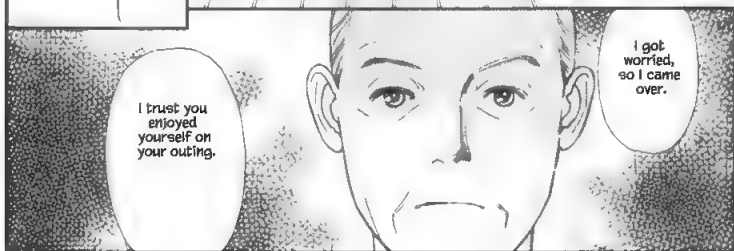
I'm home...

We arrived earlier than we thought!

Traffic going the opposite way was pretty crazy!



I am home ...



I trust you enjoyed yourself on your outing.

I got worried, so I came over.





Yeah?

Your face  
looks a  
bit  
strange.

But I  
can't  
let go  
of them  
either...

It feels  
like I'm  
a failure  
if I can't  
perform in  
the play well  
due to my  
own issues,

All I'm trying  
to do is  
discover my  
own heart.

I  
might  
be...

Master!

I am  
incredibly  
sorry for  
yesterday.

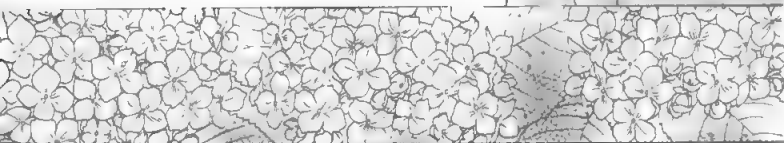
Thank  
you for  
everything  
today.

Am  
I too  
greedy?

They're  
both  
important  
...

Please  
instruct  
me once  
more!

My  
work and  
my  
personal  
life.



Hup!



✕ He's not praying,  
he's threading  
the yarn to wear  
his Tepek.

He deeply  
enjoys  
this  
kind of  
work.





Thinking  
about  
it now  
...



Since he  
was little,  
he always  
practiced  
even when  
he had a lot  
other things  
to do.

Thank  
god  
Kento  
remained  
here!

He loves  
performing  
Noh plays.



You  
always  
ran away  
from it.



4 176 am

8 2 am 31





Bang

カ  
ニ  
!

天の響／おわり

The end of: The Echo of the Sky

Invitation to a strange masked musical play

# 私をお能に

## つれてこ

Please Take Me to Noh (masked musical play) Theatre



I'll guide you!



for masked musical theatre and collecting new story ideas.

These days, I'm helping make costumes,

I've never seen any Noh plays before, and I want to see them now!

After I started drawing this Noh theatre manga,

Please recommend good ones!

What should I watch first?

I started hearing so many things like this!

Fixing ornaments.

But maybe everyone's opinions would vary too much...

It would be nice if there is a song guide for the beginners ...

But there is no song guide.

The guidebook is fun.

I sometimes answer these simple questions from people I've never met.

Come to think of it, 'What should I watch first?' or 'I wouldn't understand it even if I watched it...'

1st place! With 14 votes:  
The Robe of a Fairy~!

Soon, it'll be 5 o'clock.

Step

Then, what if I put together a bunch of different opinions?

I am in a place like this anyway.

Yes-

Okay! Let's have a popularity vote:  
Assistant A/

OK/

So, there's no need for further explanation.

I performed it in 'More Flowerlike than a Flower'.

You know this one?

Kento is arrogantly doing the commentary...

The results are out!

3 Masked musical plays? Well~

I asked 45 people to pick 3 musicals that I should recommend to the beginners.



Tied for 2nd place, also  
with 9 votes: Roinoume~!

In 2nd place, with 9  
votes... It's 'Dusk'~!

You  
know it  
well, it's  
the one  
about a  
ghost who  
attacks  
Roinoume!

The  
kids  
really  
enjoy  
it!

This  
one is  
specta-  
cular,  
dynamic,  
and fun!

This play  
was the  
first one  
Narita saw, and  
she fell in love  
straight-  
away!

Dojouji  
is full of  
great-  
ness!

But  
every  
human  
on earth  
will surely  
be moved  
by it!

This  
one is  
a very  
sad  
story...

5th (aka 3rd place), with  
8 votes: Sumidagawa!

In 6th place with  
6 votes: Funebenkei!

7th place, 5 votes: Kiyotsune!

Tied for 8th place, 4 votes:  
Ataka~! And Adachigahara~!

And another tie for 2nd  
place, 9 votes: Dojouji~!

It makes  
me feel  
like  
that!

I will  
do it  
one  
day.

Yes  
~!

Good  
good  
good  
good!

Dojouji!

I want to  
perform it:  
someday!

H H H H

Noh musicians, (child actors too?), staff, and their families....pupils and other Noh fans...etc.

The people that advised me this time are experts in Noh theatre.

I asked around about what to watch out for when you first attend a Noh performance, and there were a lot of different opinions.

The costumes are luxurious, and it's very fun to see them.

You shouldn't drink. Sake on the night before!

I guess the ones that received the highest must really be worthwhile!

Tenko from 'The Echo of the Sky' made it here too!



You should watch Fire Noh play too.

Come to Royama Tessenkai Noh theatre!

It's nice to see it with your friends.

Don't dress up when you attend.

The front seat that's slightly to the side is best.

If you know the lyrics, you'll be even more moved!

Please keep coming again and again!

Girls! And other than that, there were a lot of plays that got a vote or two.

In the end, I feel like many people have unique thoughts and opinions on this.

Rated by Tessenkai, another common play is also very fun!

2票 翁・小鏡治・鞍馬天狗

高砂・草草・犀川太郎

1票 屋島・湯貴紀・自然居士

枯・夜討會我・井橋

野寺・角仙人・大原御座

熊坂・熊野・邊坂御狂

定家・正尊・求坂

合演・望月 (櫻川家の大家)

Watch it when you're in good condition—

★ Sleep well, and don't go when you're hungry.

★ Be quiet, don't chit chat, and don't move around.

If you move, you'll miss the actors' subtle movements.

★ Read the plot before you see it.

Nobody advises reading the story while you're watching the play.

★ Don't try to understand with your mind; feel it with your emotions.

Noh is a personal experience. You can go as often as you want, and, as an audience member, you're a participant.

But if I organize it all, it goes something like this maybe?

I kept redrawing the lines not usually seen until it had a better vibe~

I was looking at a reference photo to accurately draw the shape,

But I couldn't get the expression right—

That aura which showed that she understood something and despaired; it couldn't be drawn!

'Feel the story with your emotions'—I remembered something when I heard this...

When I drew Tomonaga in 'More Flowerlike than a Flower'...



After two weeks, I saw Robe of a Fairy and was very moved. It was the one aired on TV, but I still was moved by it.

It... it's cute! So cute! It's beautiful!

Has my brain switched into Noh mode?

I think I tried my best to show what can't be seen ...

So,

That was my experience which seems so non-sense.

The body which was seduced by powerfully stimulating 'Sights' and 'Sounds' will become free.

Come to the Noh theatre and share your time and space.



If you search with 'Noh theatre', or 'Noh', you can find them.

You can look up Noh theatre play dates on the internet, so I won't include them!

What?

It's on Pia as well.



See you at Noh theatre!

Well then, good-bye!

Unexpectedly, there are a lot of Noh theatres around, and their prices are good!

There are cheap tickets which are about 3000 yen.

It's Shogakukan's photo culture 'Noh Performance Review Guide'. It's sold for ¥1500.

If you can't use internet, just read this book: (I recommend it.)

The end of Please Take Me to Noh (Masked musical play) Theatre.

